



48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!

# ACTION

NO. 627

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U.K. 60p

COMICS® WEEKLY

## NIGHTWING™

**PLUS:**  
SUPERMAN  
SECRET SIX  
GREEN  
LANTERN  
BLACK  
CANARY



**TERROR IN  
IRELAND!**



# GREEN LANTERN

## AND NOW... CAPTAIN ATON

MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, NATHANIEL ADAM TOOK PART IN A BIZARRE EXPERIMENT THAT BUMPED HIM TWENTY YEARS INTO THE FUTURE AND LEFT HIM ENCASED IN A SHELL OF ALIEN METAL.

NOW HE'S IN JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL, AND HE'S A SUPERHERO...

A RELUCTANT SUPERHERO.

by  
JAMES & M.D.  
OWSLEY & BRIGHT  
SCRIPT / PLOT / PENCILS

ROMEO TAYNSAL  
INKS  
ALBERT DE GUZMAN  
LETTERING  
ANTHONY TOLLIN  
COLORING  
DAN RASPLER  
ASSIST. BOSS  
DENNIS O'NEIL  
BOSS

IT SHOULD BE  
AROUND HERE  
SOMEWHERE.

IT'S  
POWERFUL...  
MAYBE  
DEADLY!

I'VE GOT TO  
BE READY FOR  
ANYTHING!





I JUST WISH I  
KNEW WHAT I  
WAS LOOKING  
FOR!

THE SENSORS IN THE UZLI EMBASSY  
PICKED UP A POWER SOURCE OF  
UNKNOWN ORIGIN HERE IN  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA! COULD  
BE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

INCLUDING A  
SHORT ON  
THE MONITOR  
BOARD.

ALL I  
SEE IS  
TREES.



I REALLY HATE THIS. BAD  
ENOUGH THE PRESIDENT  
INSISTED I JOIN THE  
UZLI SO I COULD SPY  
ON 'EM...

...HAVING TO PULL MONITOR  
DUTY AND RUN THESE STUPID  
"MISSIONS" AND PUT UP  
WITH GUY...

...WHOA!



THIS TRUCK STOP'S  
BEEN TOTALED!  
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE  
NUKED IT!



SEEMS LIKE  
A CLUE TO  
ME!



IT COMES FROM  
A GALAXY ON THE  
FAR SIDE OF THE  
KNOWN UNIVERSE.

THE VISITOR.



ONCE EVERY CYCLE THE VISITOR  
MUST REST WITHIN THE CONFINES  
OF ITS SHRINE. THAT SHRINE WAS  
RECENTLY DAMAGED.

BY CEREMONIAL CUSTOM,  
THE VISITOR MUST REPAIR  
ITS SHRINE WITH ITS OWN  
HANDS.

2



TO FACILITATE THIS SACRED TASK, THE VISITOR TOOK ON THE FORM OF A BEING INDIGENOUS TO THIS PLANET. IT USED THE ONLY AVAILABLE EXAMPLE -- AN ACTION FILM STARRING RANDY VIOLENT.

AS NEW DATA BECAME AVAILABLE, THE VISITOR MODIFIED ITS FORM AND BEHAVIOR TO EXIST MORE HARMONIOUSLY WITH THE LIFE FORMS AND THEIR CUSTOMS.

MAYBE THIS GUY KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THE EXPLOSION.

ITS TASK ALMOST COMPLETE, THE VISITOR PREPARES TO TAKE ITS LEAVE.

'SCUSE ME, PAL--

ANOTHER EARTH LIFE-FORM.

THE VISITOR OFFERS A GREETING.

SLAMMOCK!!

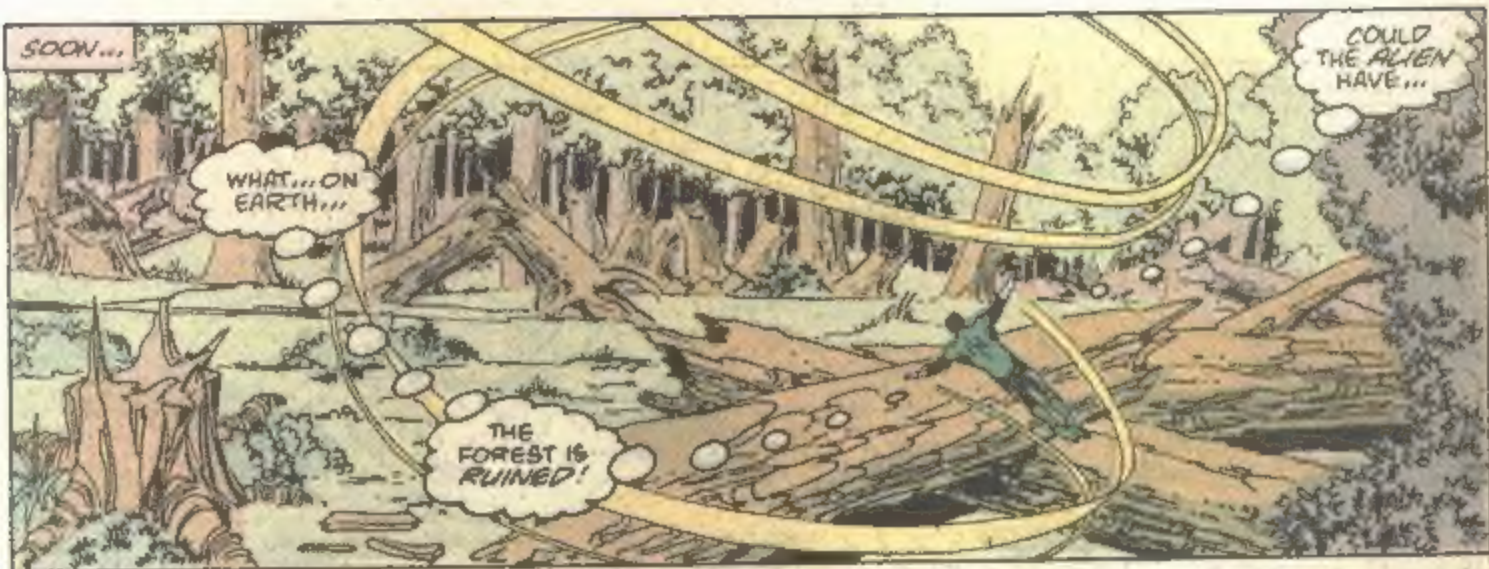
YEP.

I'LL BET HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

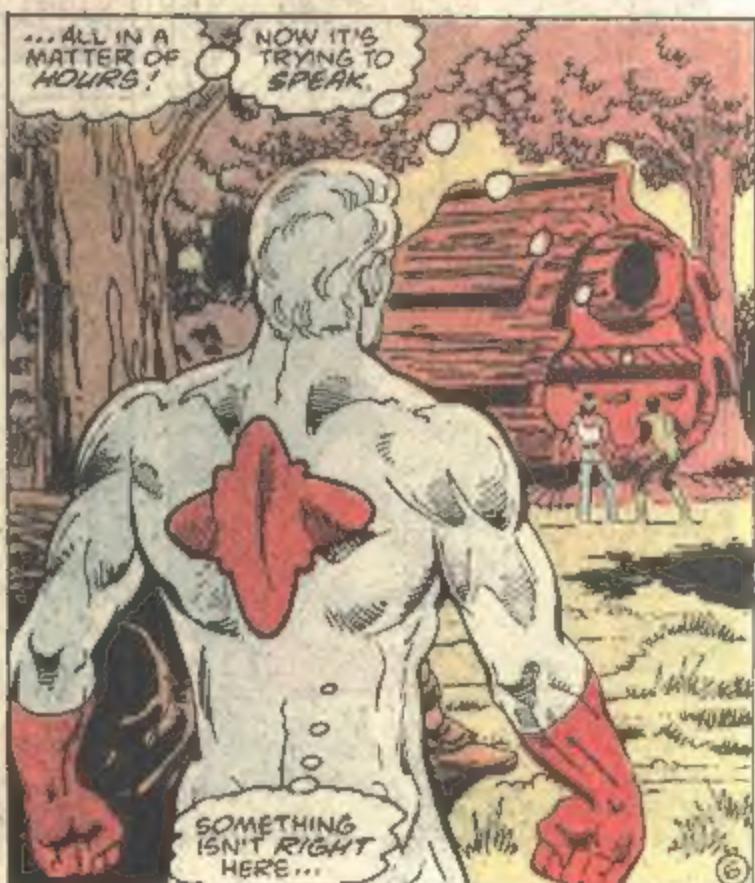
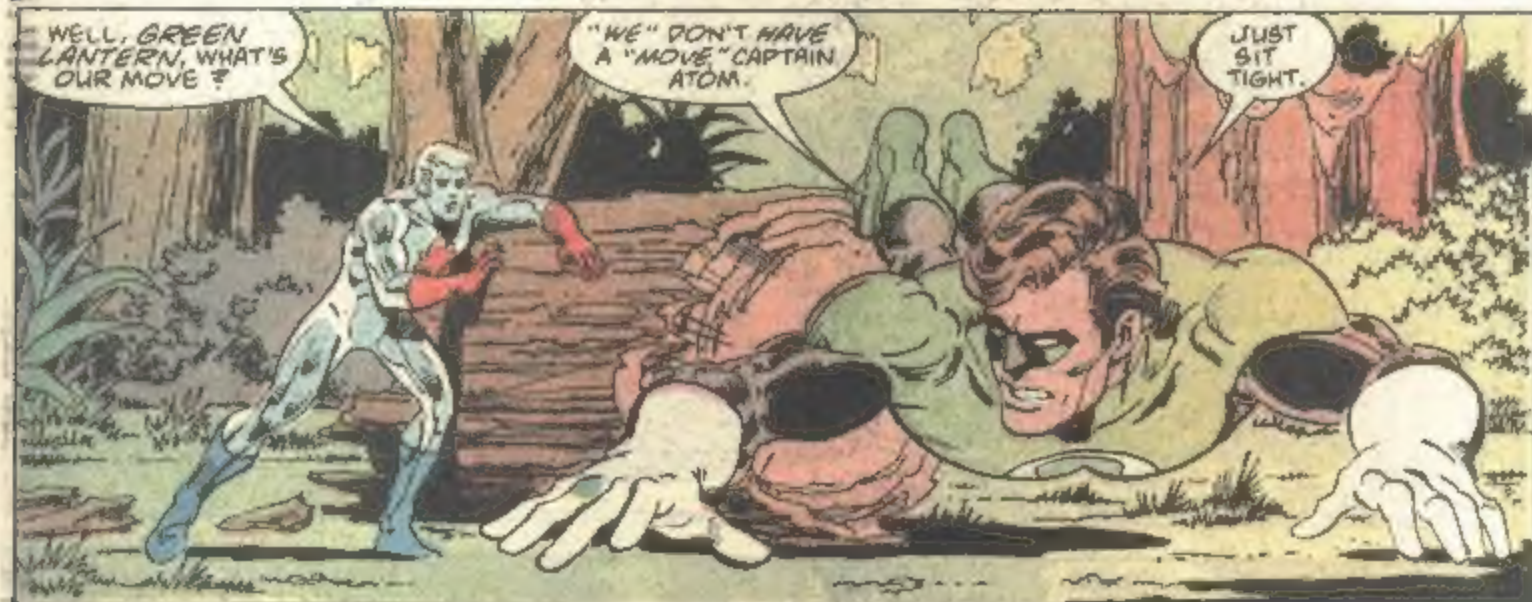








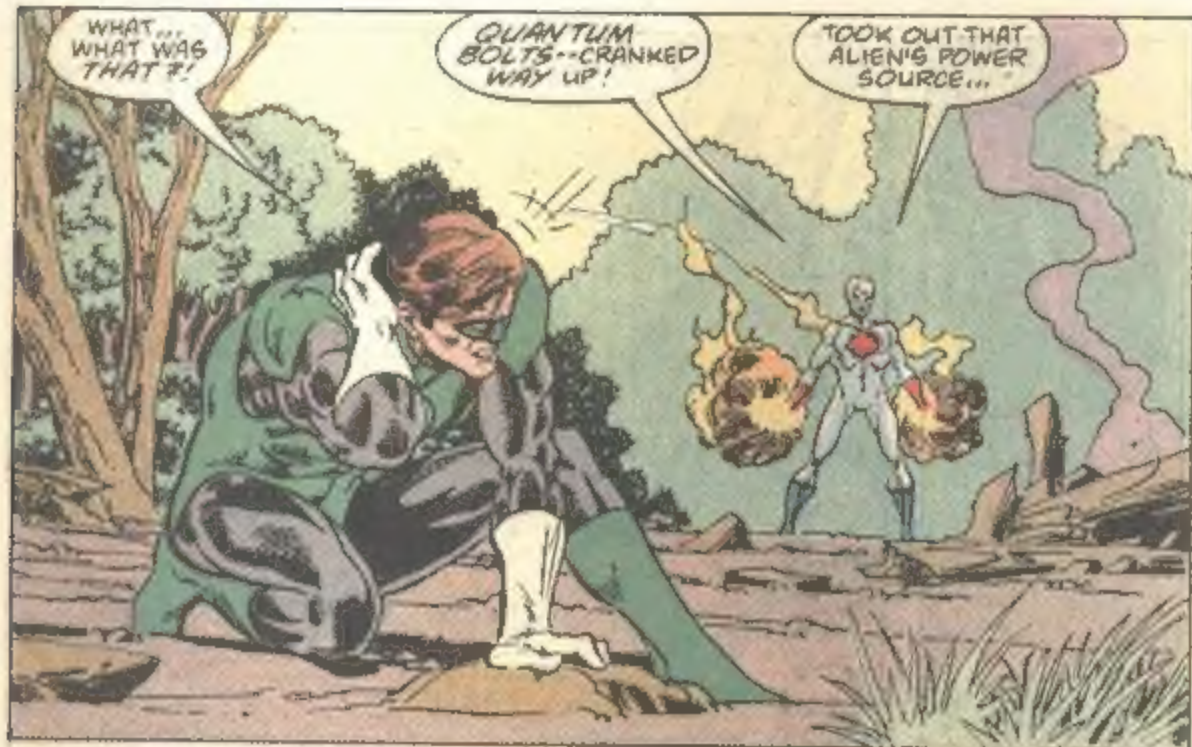












THE SEARCH FOR THE ALIEN!  
DISASTER IN L.A.! AND IN  
THE MIDST OF THE HOLOCAUST...

# HEROES



# THE SECRET SIX!™

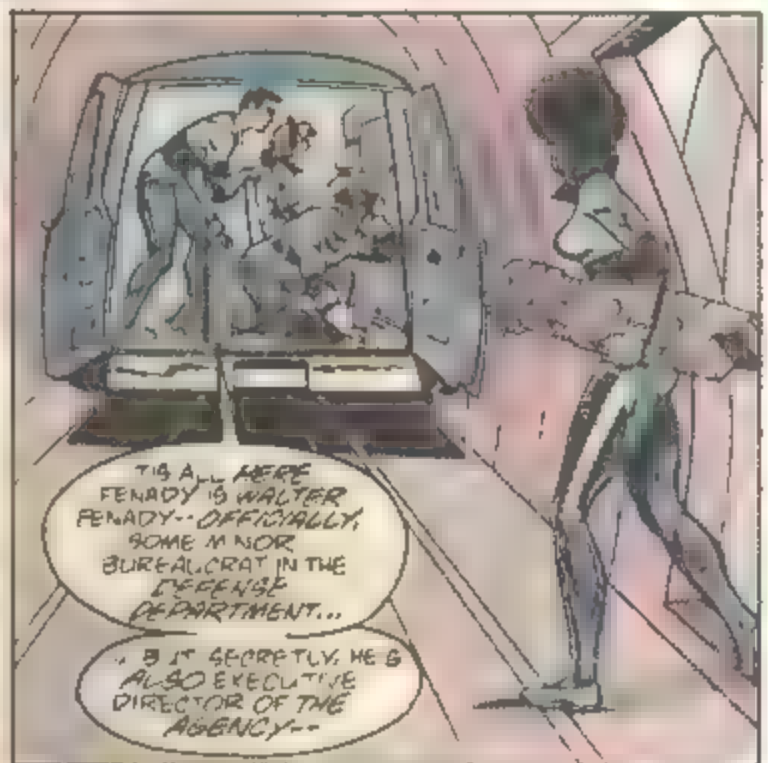
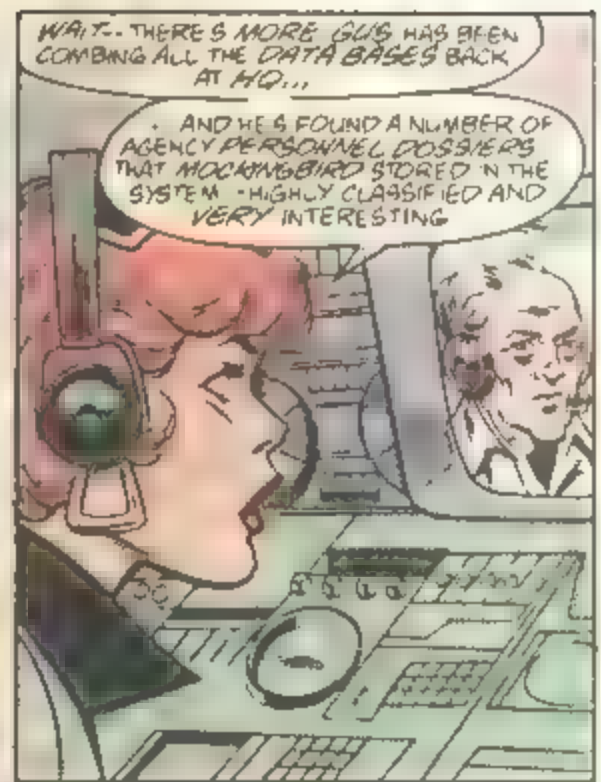
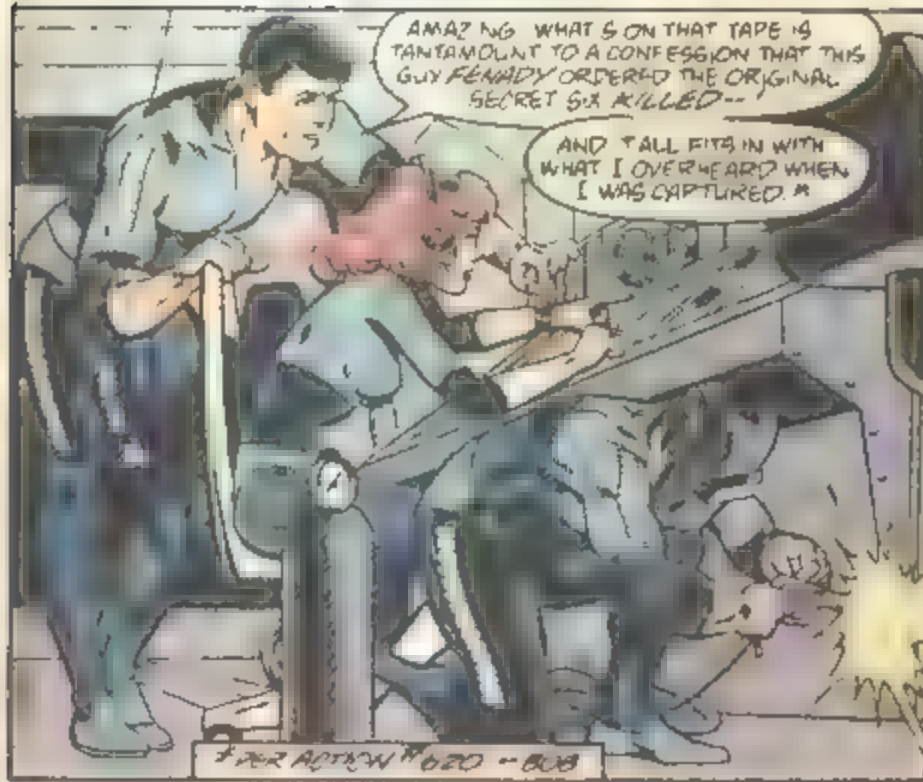
JULY 11, 4:58 A.M. A  
HOLDING CELL IN THE  
"WORKSHOP" OF THE  
MYSTERIOUS INTELLIGENCE  
ORGANIZATION CALLED  
"THE AGENCY":



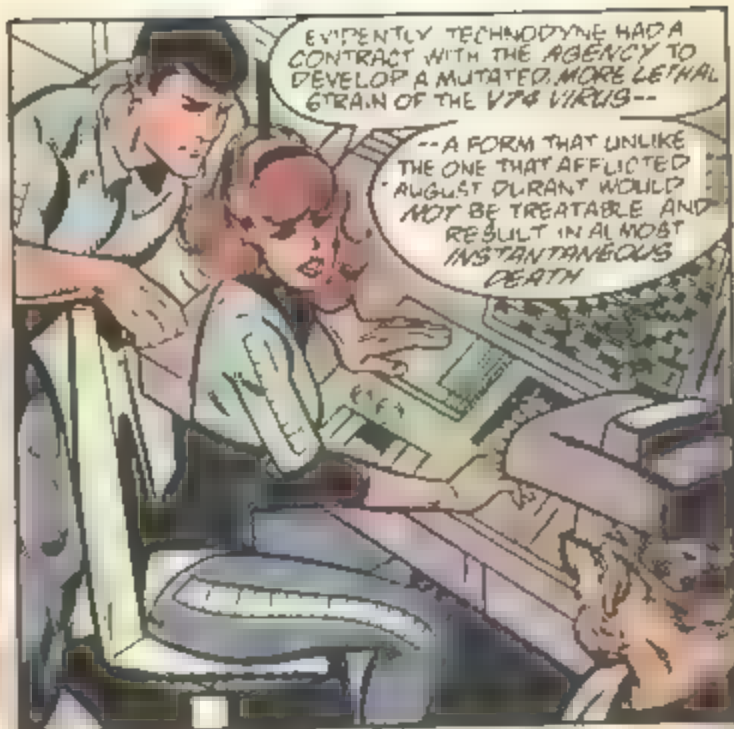
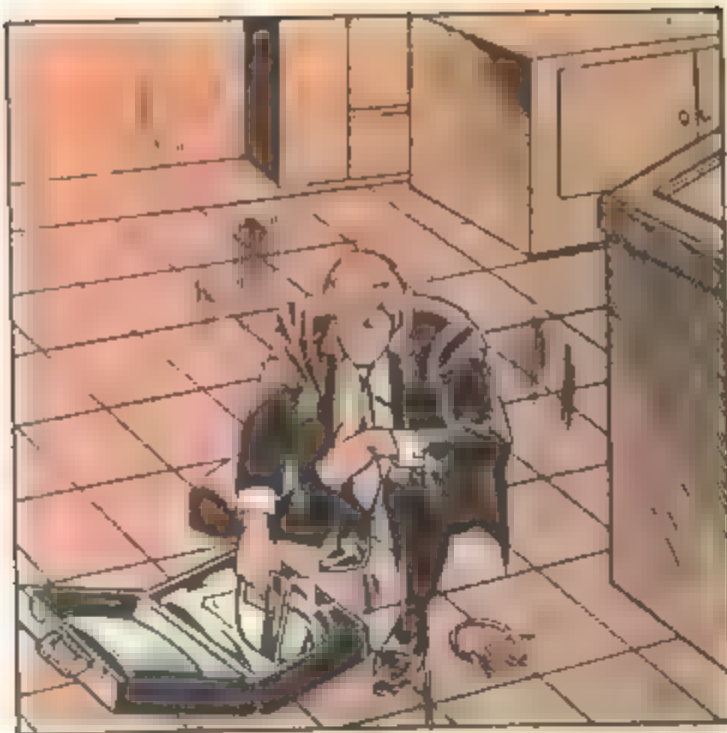
93805











EVIDENTLY TECHNODYNE HAD A CONTRACT WITH THE AGENCY TO DEVELOP A MUTATED, MORE LETHAL STRAIN OF THE V76 VIRUS--

--A FORM THAT UNLIKE THE ONE THAT AFFLICTED AUGUST DURANT WOULD NOT BE TREATABLE AND RESULT IN ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS DEATH



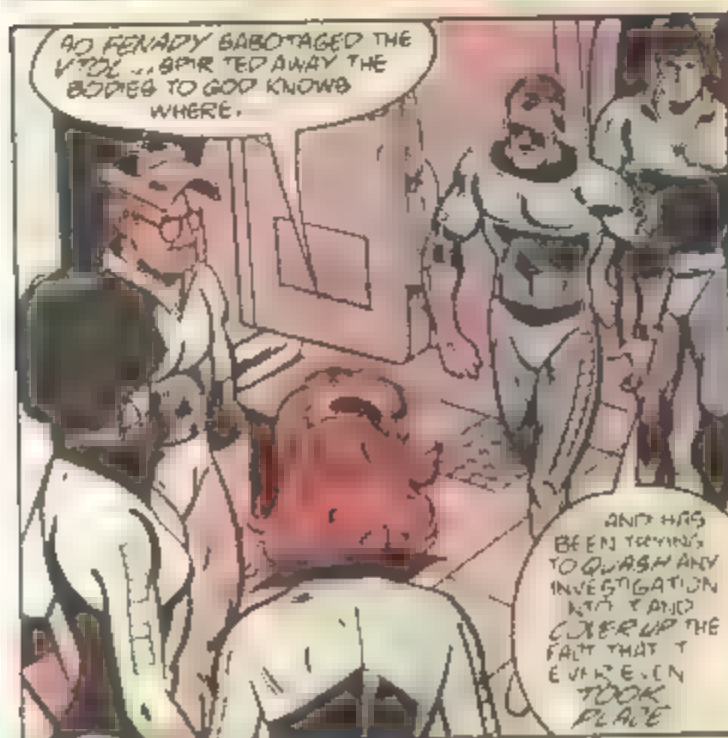
THIS NEW VIRUS--TO BE CALLED V75--WOULD BECOME THE MOST DEADLY FORM OF CHEMICAL WARFARE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

OBVIOUSLY, MOCKINGBIRD WANTED US TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF V75. THAT'S WHY HE GAVE US THE ASSIGNMENTS HE DID



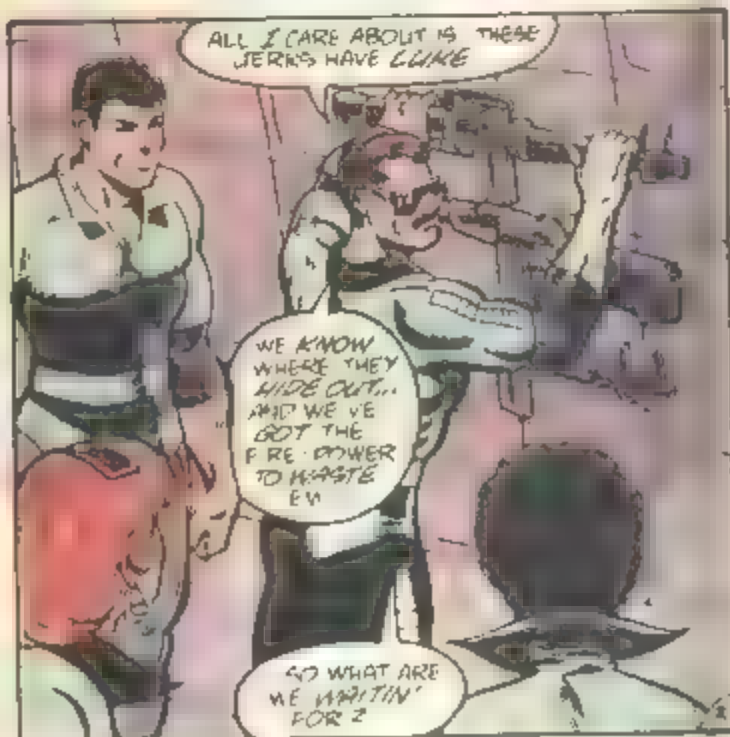
SO ALL THIS TIME, WE'VE BEEN THROWING MONKEY WRENCHES INTO FENADY'S PLANS, WITHOUT REALIZING IT

RIGHT BUT I MADINE FENADY SOMEHOW SUSPECTED MOCKINGBIRD WAS REASSEMBLING THE OLD SECRET SIX IN HIS EFFORT TO STOP THE AGENCY



AND FENADY SABOTAGED THE VTOL...SPURTED AWAY THE BODIES TO GOD KNOWS WHERE.

AND HAS BEEN TRYING TO QUASH ANY INVESTIGATION THAT MIGHT COVER UP THE FACT THAT IT EVER EVEN TOOK PLACE



ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THESE JERKS HAVE LUNG

WE KNOW WHERE THEY HIDE OUT... AND WE'VE GOT THE FIRE POWER TO WASTE EM

SO WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

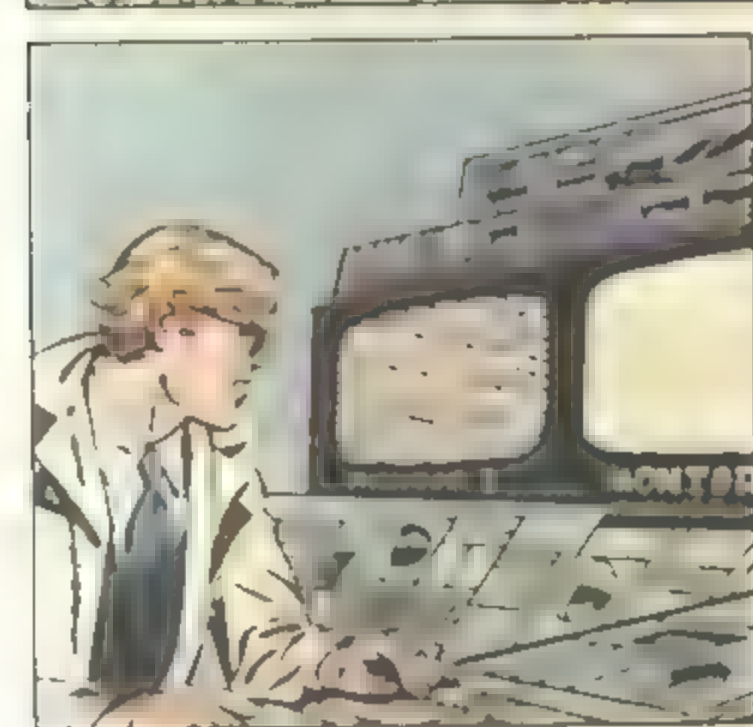
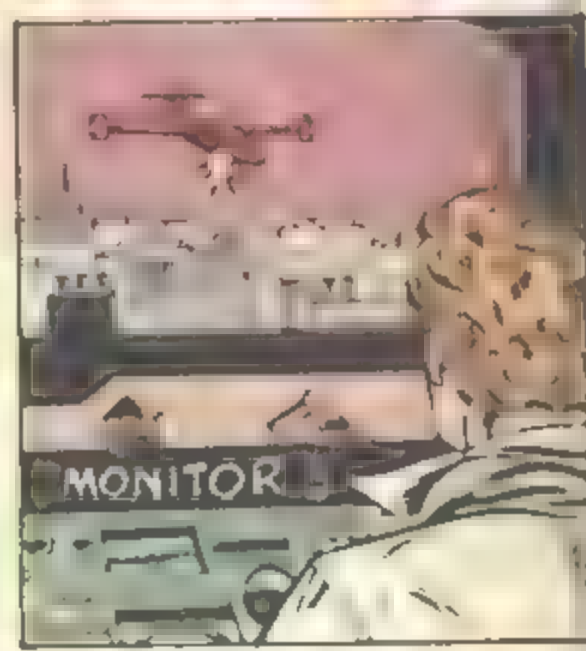
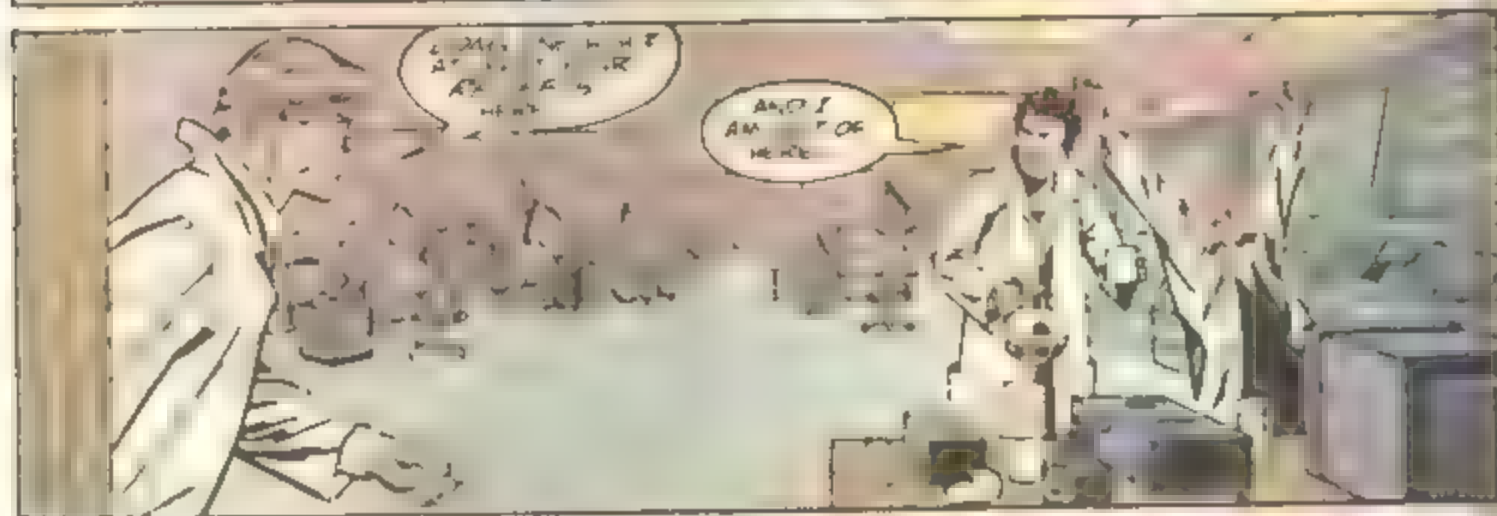




# A BIRD IN THE HAND...

Written by MARTIN PASKO / Drawn by FRANK SPRINGER & FRANK McLAUGHLIN  
Lettered by ALBERT DE GUZMAN / Colored by CARL GAFFORD / Edited by ROBERT GREENBERGER





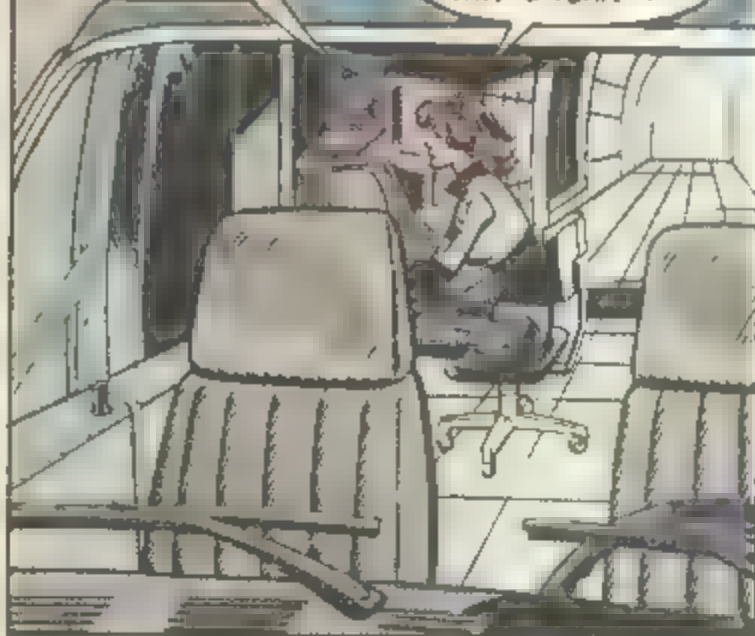


AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOLDING CELL...

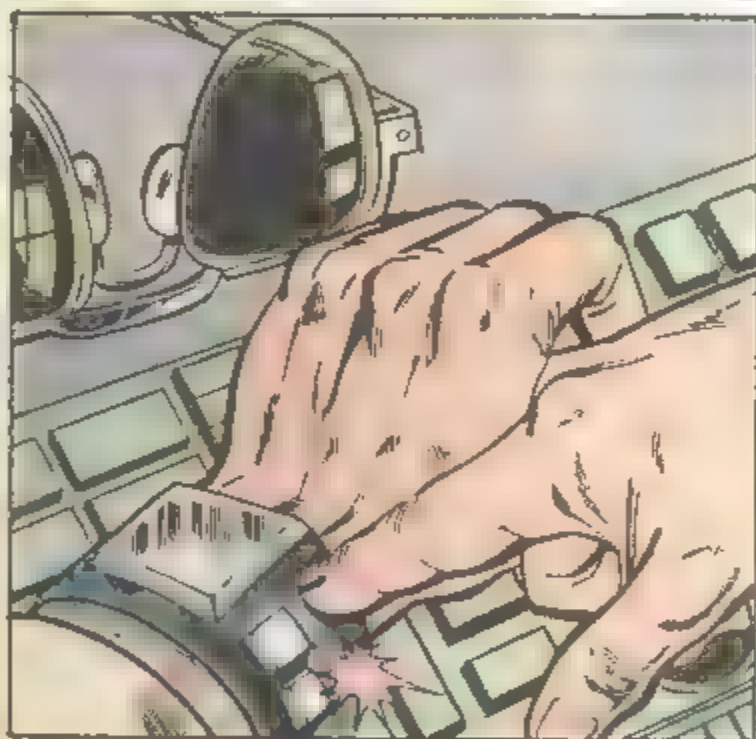


GETTING A MODEM  
TRANSMISSION--FROM  
THE TARGET SITE?

IT'S A... A COMPLETE  
FLOOR PLAN OF  
THEIR BASE ' NOW  
WHY ON EARTH--?



LANG KATH B  
DURA A G B  
FORC T GE B  
DIR CARL B  
SMA KIN B  
DENE LIL B



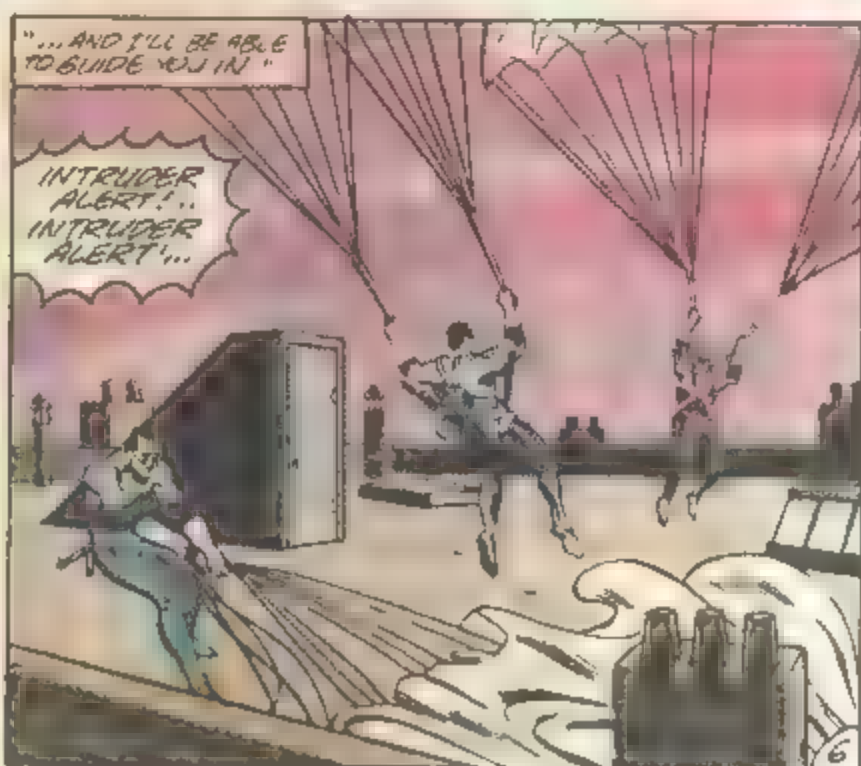
NO WONDER!...  
T'S FROM LUKE!  
HE'S ALIVE!



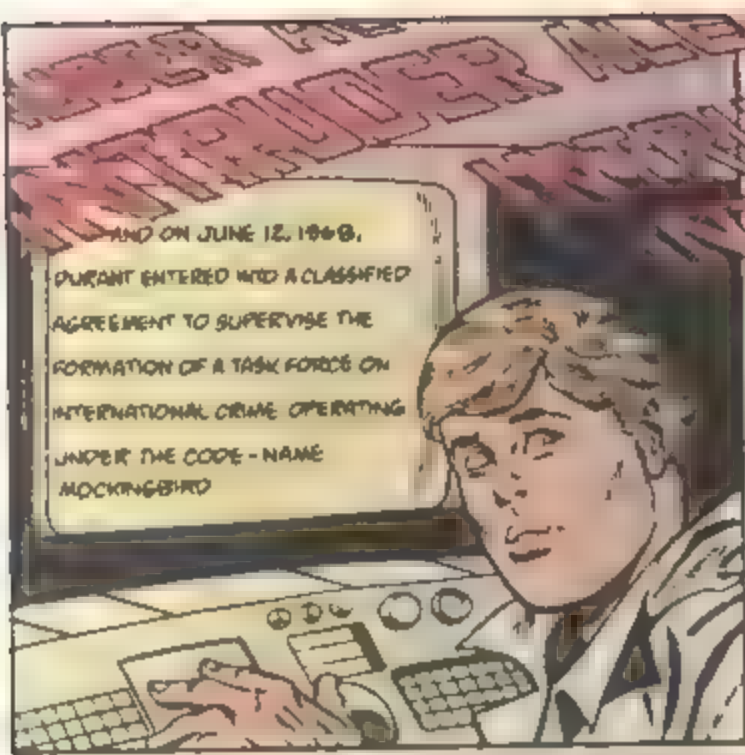
NO  
MATCHING  
GRID TO  
COMM-READINGS  
GIVE ME 30 SECONDS

"...AND I'LL BE ABLE  
TO GUIDE YOU IN."

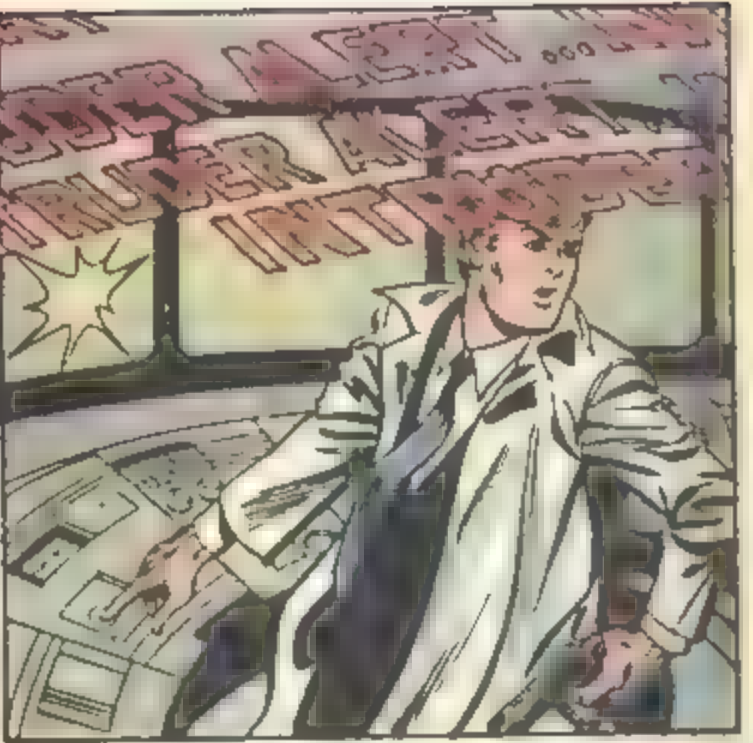
INTRUDER  
ALERT!...  
INTRUDER  
ALERT!...







AND ON JUNE 12, 1968,  
DURANT ENTERED INTO A CLASSIFIED  
AGREEMENT TO SUPERVISE THE  
FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE ON  
INTERNATIONAL CRIME OPERATING  
UNDER THE CODE-NAME  
MOCKINGBIRD



THERE  
HE IS...



"KILL  
THE  
BASTARD!"

AGH

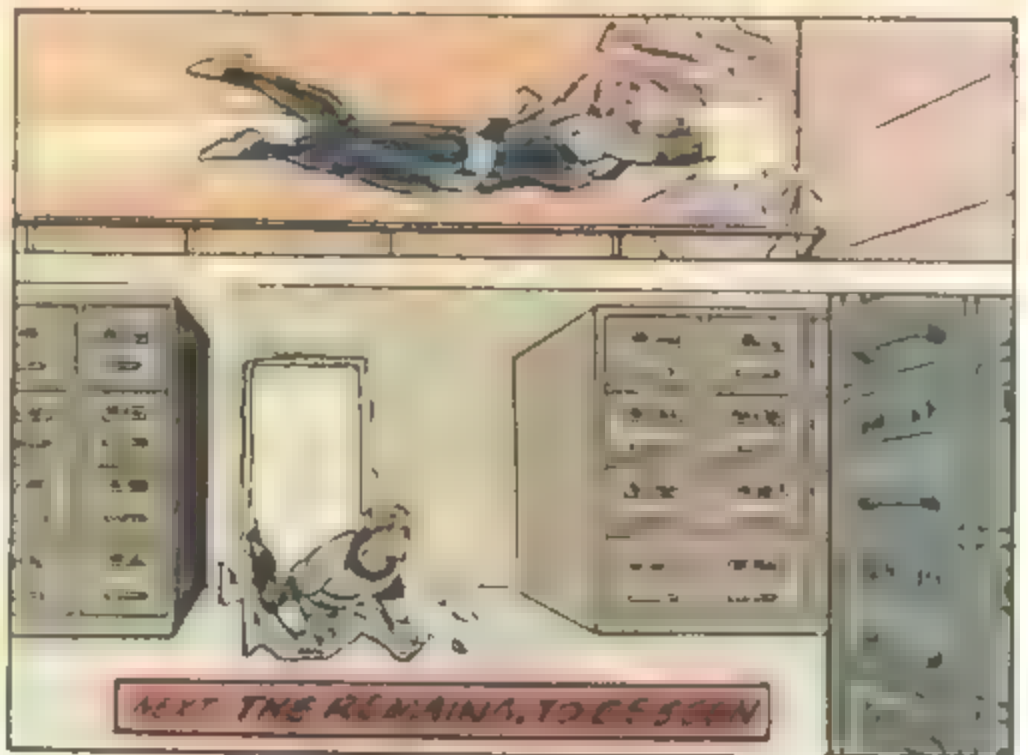
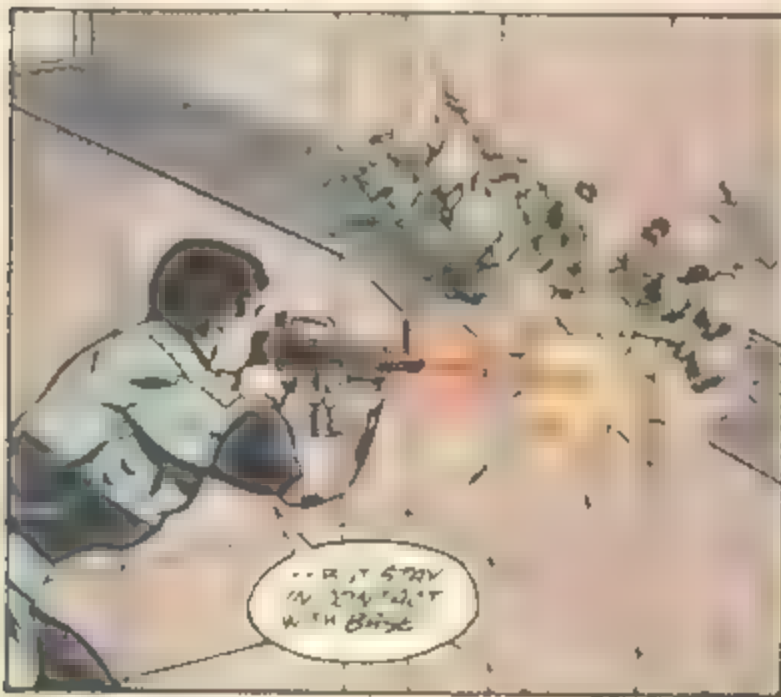


WELL, IF WE'RE  
THE 'INTRUDERS',  
WHERE'S THE  
'WELCOMIN'  
COMMITTEE?"

SO LET'S  
DO IT  
ALREADY!

SENSORS  
SHOW THE  
STAIRWELL  
CLEAR  
NUMBER  
ONE







ELIOT

# CANARY

knock 'em  
**DEAD**

PART

4

Sharon Wright writer

Randy DuBurke penciller

Pablo Marcos inker

Steve Haynie letterer

Gene D'Angelo colorist

Robert Greenberger editor

WHY?

NOW



NOW AFTER  
MONTHS YEARS

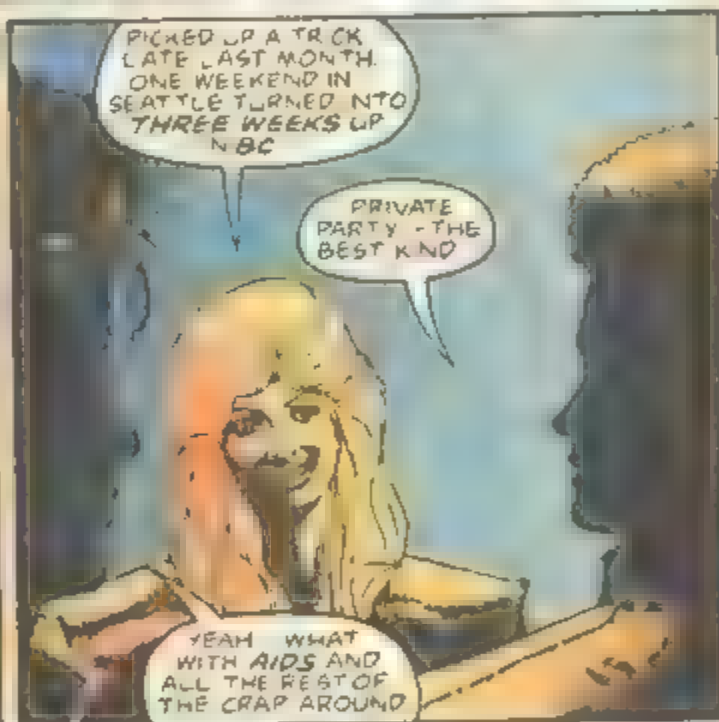
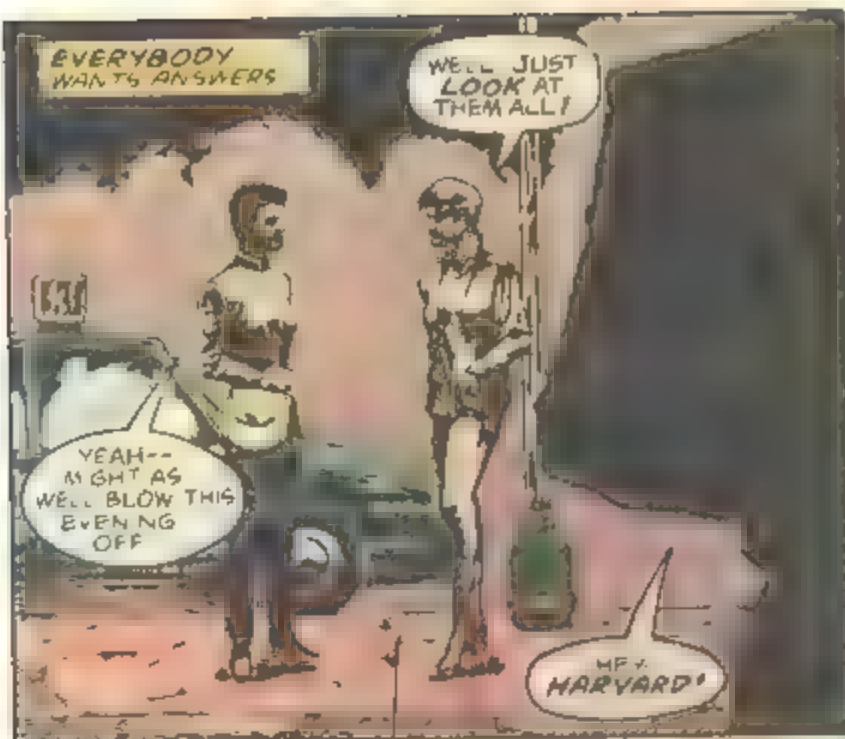


AND WHY  
WALT SARNO  
A BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATE?





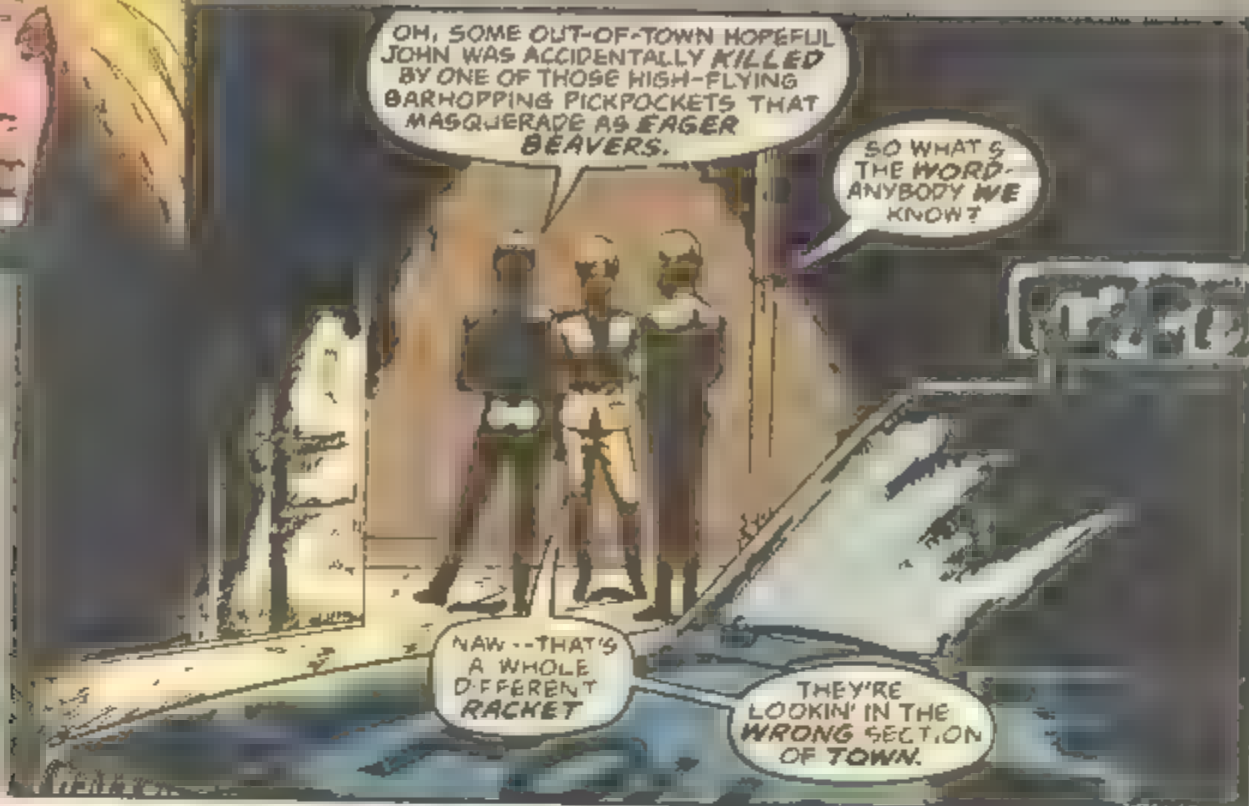








WHAT'S W. TH  
ALL THE  
BLUE?



OH, SOME OUT-OF-TOWN HOPEFUL  
JOHN WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED  
BY ONE OF THOSE HIGH-FLYING  
BARHOPPING PICKPOCKETS THAT  
MASQUERADE AS EAGER  
BEAVERS.

SO WHAT'S  
THE WORD--  
ANYBODY WE  
KNOW?

NAW--THAT'S  
A WHOLE  
DIFFERENT  
RACKET

THEY'RE  
LOOKIN' IN THE  
WRONG SECTION  
OF TOWN.

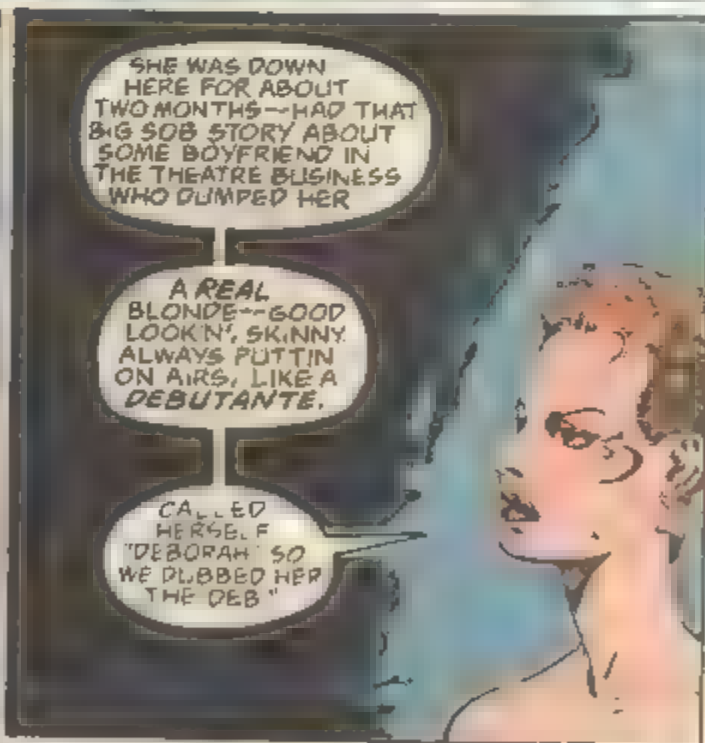


YOU TALKIN'  
'BOUT THAT STIFF  
THEY FOUND AT  
THE HOTEL?

YES?

KNOW WHO  
GOT INTO  
THAT LINE?

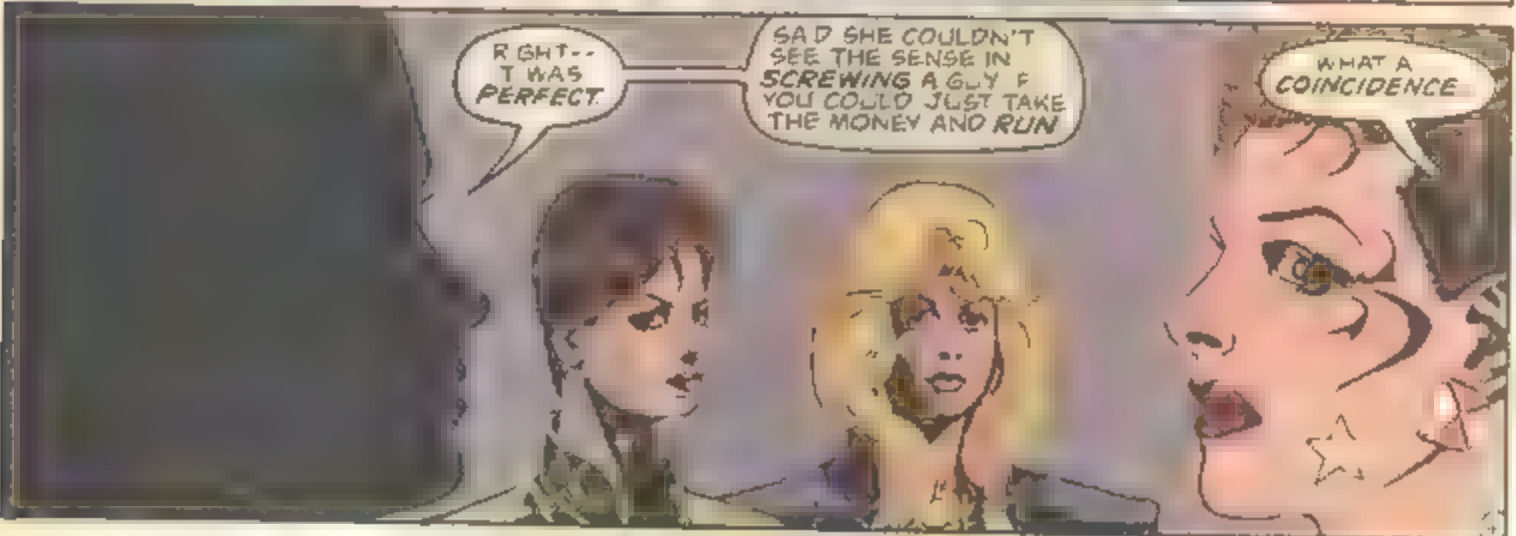
THE DEB--  
REMEMBER?



SHE WAS DOWN  
HERE FOR ABOUT  
TWO MONTHS--HAD THAT  
BIG SOB STORY ABOUT  
SOME BOYFRIEND IN  
THE THEATRE BUSINESS  
WHO DUMPED HER

A REAL  
BLONDE--GOOD  
LOOKIN', SKINNY  
ALWAYS PUTTIN  
ON AIRS, LIKE A  
DEBUTANTE.

CALLED  
HERSELF  
'DEBORAH' SO  
WE DUBBED HER  
THE DEB

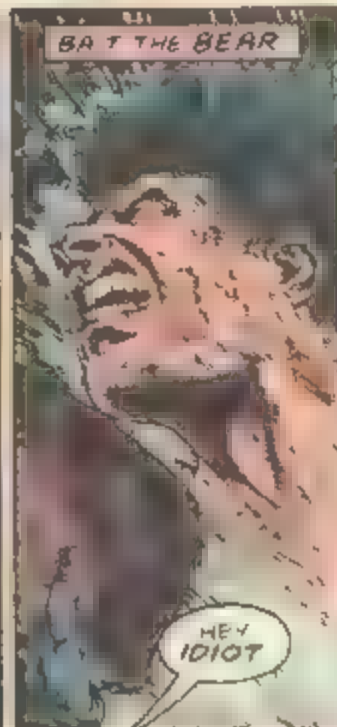
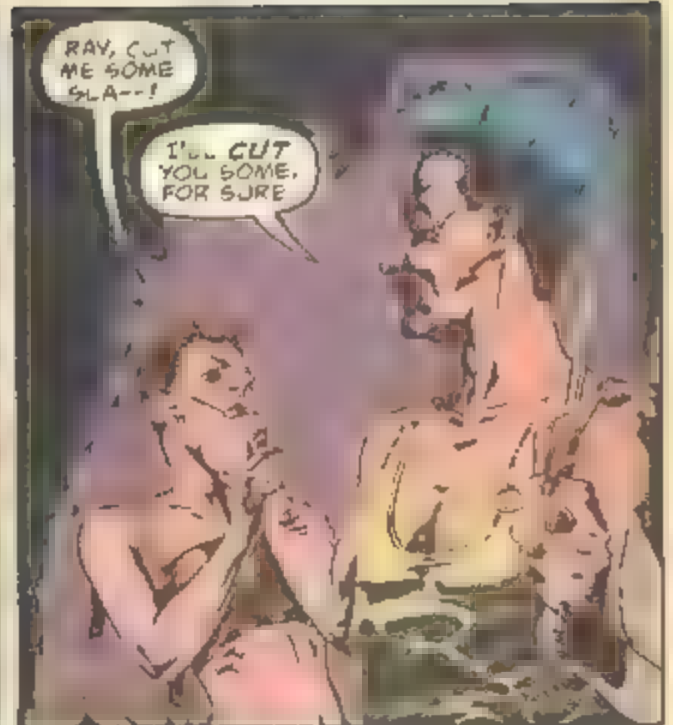


RIGHT--  
T WAS  
PERFECT.

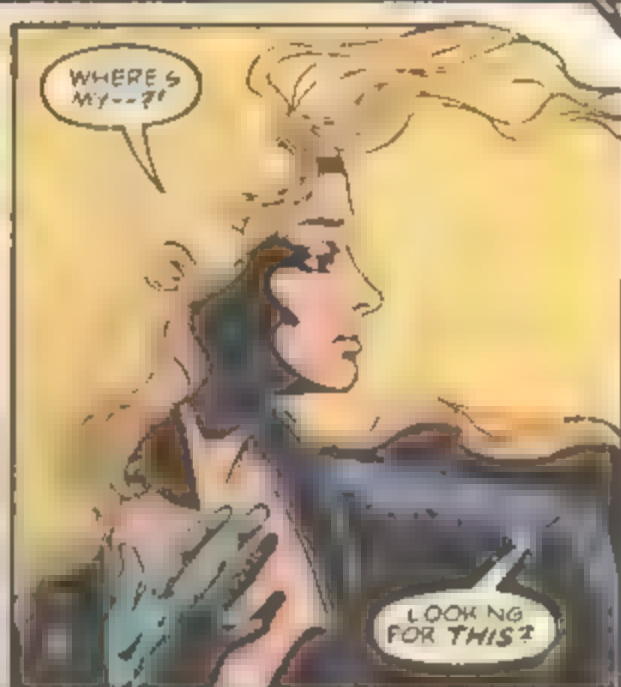
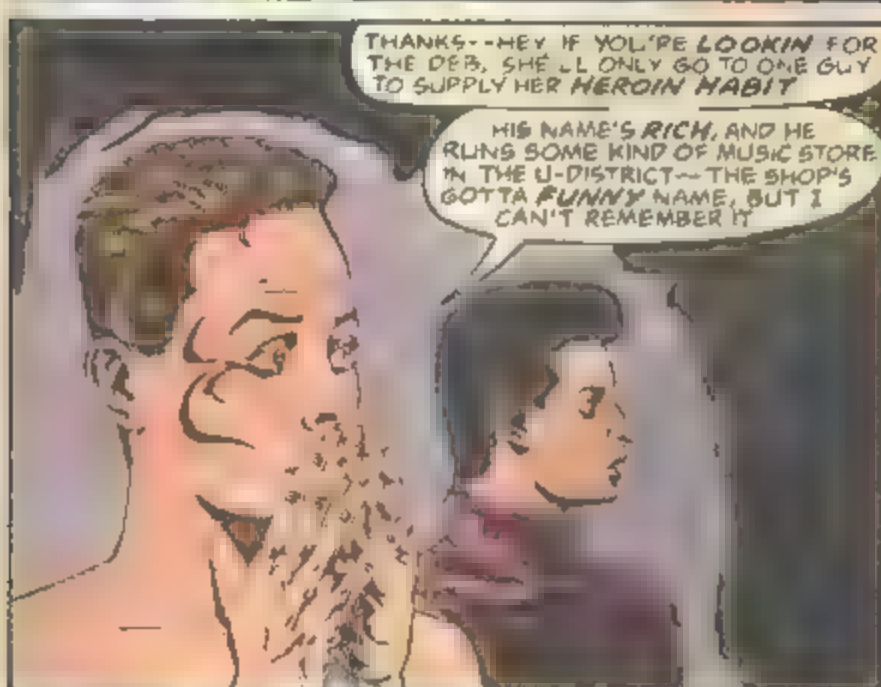
SAD SHE COULDN'T  
SEE THE SENSE IN  
SCREWING A GUY F  
YOU COULD JUST TAKE  
THE MONEY AND RUN

WHAT A  
COINCIDENCE

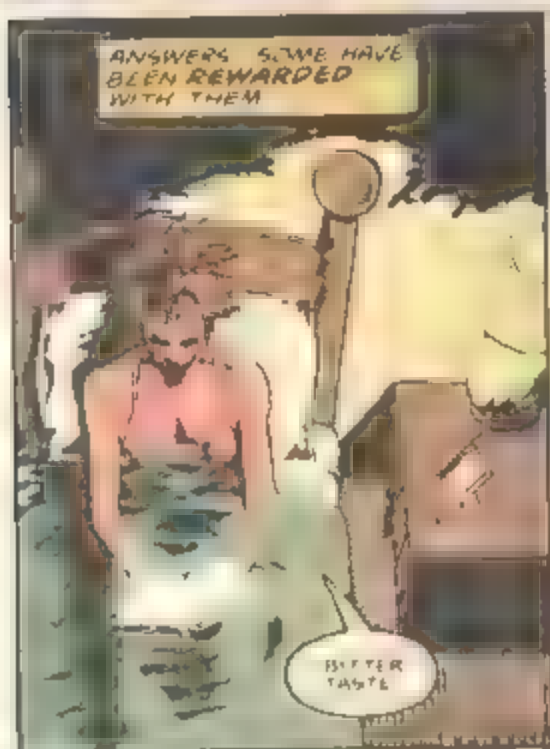












CONTINUED  
NEXT WEEK!



# SUPERMAN

Created by  
JOHN B. COLE  
and JIMMY  
F. MOORE

UNAWARE THAT A MYRIAD  
OF VILAINS PLANNED IN THEIR  
MENTAL TROUBLE HAD HUNG  
THEY WOULD BE KILLED BY  
THEY WOULD BE KILLED BY  
THEY WOULD BE KILLED BY  
THEY WOULD BE KILLED BY

## "PANIC

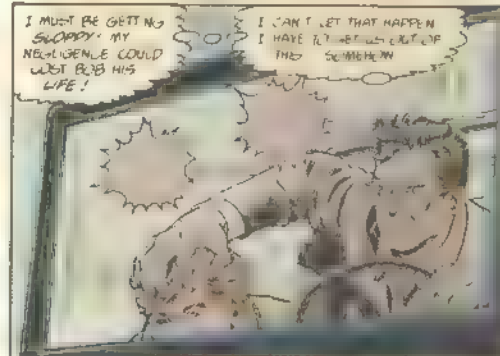
## IN THE SANDS!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER  
CURT SWAN - PENCILER  
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER  
BILL CRAWLEY - LETTERER  
JOHN ZILKO - COLORIST  
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



HOW DID THEY  
FIND US?

I'VE HAD MY EYES PEELED  
FOR TROUBLE SINCE WE  
LEFT METROPOLIS



I MUST BE GETTING  
SLOPPY. MY  
NEGLECTANCE COULD  
Lose ROB HIS  
LIFE!

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN  
I HAVE IT ALL OUT OF  
THEY SOMEHOW

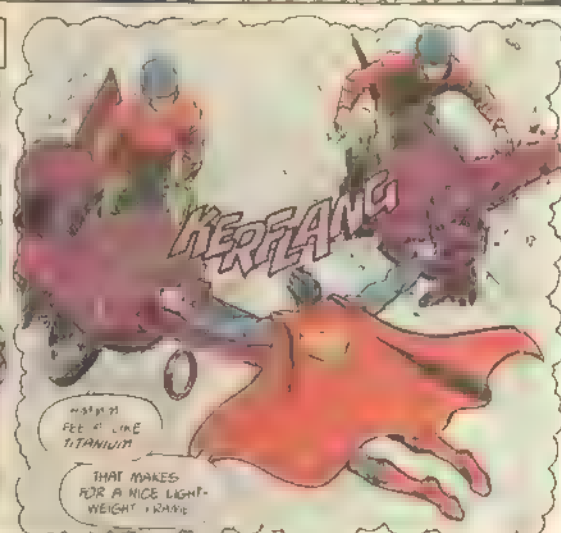


I MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
TAKE OUT THE  
FLYING BIKES WITH  
MY HEAT VISION  
BUT WITHOUT  
KNOWING WHERE  
ABOUT THEIR DESIGN  
I MIGHT ALSO BLOW  
THEM AND THE R  
RIDERS TO  
KINGDOM  
COME!



IT WOULD BE A LOT SIMPLER IF I COULD  
HANDLE THIS AS SUPERMAN.

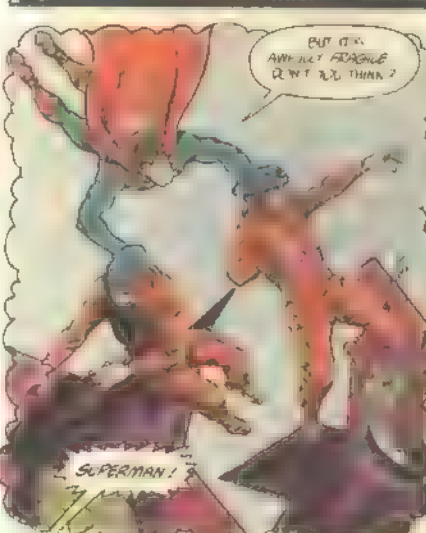
NICE BIKES  
FELLOW. MIND IF  
I TAKE A CLOSER  
LOOK?



KERFLANG

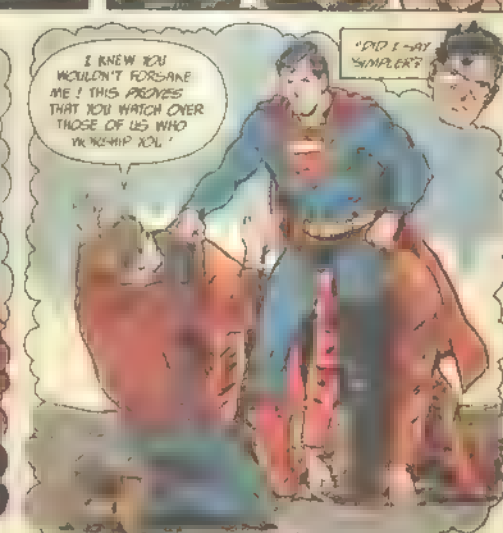
WOW  
FEEL LIKE  
TITANIUM

THAT MAKES  
FOR A NICE LIGHT-  
WEIGHT FRAME



BUT IT'S  
AFTER ALL  
DON'T YOU THINK?

SUPERMAN!

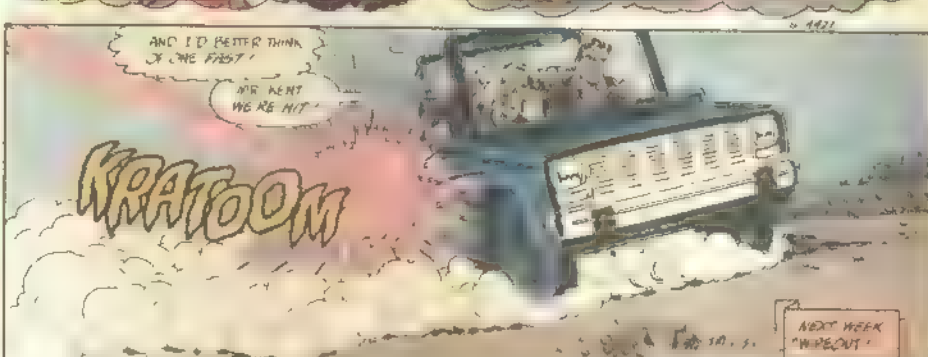


I KNEW YOU  
WOULDN'T FORSAKE  
ME! THIS PROVES  
THAT YOU WATCH OVER  
THOSE OF US WHO  
WEARHIP YOU!

"DID I SAY  
SIMPLER?"



IF I HAVE THE DAY A  
SUPERMAN I'LL NEVER  
WINNIE BUT THAT I'M NOT  
A JOY THERE MUST BE  
ANOTHER WAY



AND I'D PREFER THINK  
OF THE FIRST!

OH GENT  
WE'RE HIT

KRATOOM

NEXT WEEK  
"WRECK!"





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JOHN F. KANE VP, Sales & Marketing

MAST RAGONE Circulation Director

PAT CALDON Controller

L-3442

Dear ACW

Hi

1) Blackhawk Thank God he's back. The character zillions. Chuck, Andre and Weng, especially. Loved the sequence on pages 2 and 3 in which not a single word was spoken! Comics are a visual medium and sometimes writers tend to forget that (see my Black Canary vote, waaaay down on this list). Natalie's eye patch. Leslie Richardson—this is good comics.

2) Wild Dog Just my luck, the first two features to rotate out of ACW were also my favorites. The book has really suffered since they left. Wild Dog and Blackhawk add a touch of originality that stands out from the other strips. Max Collins really knows what to do with the relatively little space you give him each week.

3) Green Lantern I'm sorry, I'm just not buying that GL was without fear before. If nothing else, as his recent run in ACW has proven, Hal was afraid of fear itself! Also, I should point out that GL is currently wearing Abin Sur's ring and John Stewart wore Tomar-Re's. As such, GL's ring should have been able to undo the "lobotomy" without complaining, like it did in #614.

4) Superman The big "S" seems to have settled into permanent fourth place on my lists. That's okay, especially considering the quality of the top three slots. The story does move slowly, but that's okay, too, wouldn't it be boring if everything moved at exactly the same pace?

I do wish you'd put the strip in the center, though. I've asked you before, others have asked you—but nothing. This issue we got a record club ad in the center. A record club ad!! The same ad was running in this month's Marvels and they didn't put it in the center—they put comics in the center. Does DC put comics in the center? Nooo! They put a record club ad in the center. SLAP! I'm fine now, really.

5) Nightwing Bad. This space is showing too much Speedy and not enough Nightwing. In Nightwing's first solo story, it was important to establish the character by himself, facing his own foes. The presence of Speedy, Cheshire and the other Titans removes the individuality Nightwing should enjoy in his own strip.

6) Black Canary The art is very attractive, when we can see it through the word balloons. Seriously, I'm glad this serial is over. The story moved mostly through word balloons and explana-

tion, not enough through character actions. BC needed more opportunity to investigate, rather than be told what was going on by other folks. I've grown used to the idea of Dinah out of costume, and it's okay when she's wearing clothes, too, but let's have her do more next time around, okay?

ACW is holding its own—good job.

Doug Clark

1355 Hayne Rd

Hillsborough, CA 94010

*Max Collins should know how to maximize a small amount of story space—his many years of experience writing the Dick Tracy daily and Sunday newspaper strip have more than honed his skills. Max and Terry also tell their Ms. Tree mysteries in short chapters, usually complete with cliffhangers, as well.*

*By the way, Doug, Marvel may have not run the record ad in their center spreads, but did they run Superman there in its place? Nooo! Seriously though, Supes will run in our center spread when possible—witness the past several issues. Who says we don't listen?*

Dear Mike

The one distinguishing characteristic of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY that is fast becoming an industry tradition is the beautiful artwork on the cover of almost every issue. It's been awhile since I've seen work by Alex Toth, but his Blackhawk cover for issue #616 was worth the buck it fly by itself!

Inside, your lead features of Green Lantern and Blackhawk continued to be the best parts of the book. Yeah, that's right, after all these weeks, you've begun to win me over to the new look of Blackhawk. I guess he's just too good a character to stay in my doghouse for very long.

I'm getting more used to the post-Warld War II storyline and I like it a lot better now that you're using some of the other members of the old Blackhawk team. In this issue, I found the story interesting, yet easy to follow. The development of the supporting cast, especially in the case of Natalie Reed, seems to be helping me relate to the situation as it is currently being presented. It also helps me get over my misgivings about the changes in Blackhawk himself. Although I still prefer the Warld War II version, this one's pretty good in its own right.

By the way, I'm probably not alone in discovering a fairly effective way to make the stories seem longer and to keep up with the weekly developments without getting too confused by interruptions of the plot line. Actually, I sort of stumbled onto the idea when I missed a couple of weeks' worth of comic shop visits. When I finally had an opportunity to get to the store, I bought three issues of ACW at once. Then I read three chapters of the same feature, one from each issue, all in one sitting. That made it seem like a whole comic book about each particular hero. On the other hand,

I find it hard to save up the issues in order to read them in this manner and only manage to do it if something interferes with my weekly efforts to buy your book.

I'm sorry, but I didn't like the artwork nor the story for the Black Canary feature. I'm glad it's over, I'm looking forward to the return of Deadman. The Wild Dog story is much better than the last installment of the vicious vigilante. I enjoyed the Nightwing and Speedy episode, too.

Murphy Anderson is the perfect inker for Curt Swan's pencils, and I like the Superman "Sunday strip" a lot. I read all the other books that have The Man of Steel in them, so I'm not starving for another long story about Superman. The "Sunday strip" approach is unique and appropriate as a way to give ACW another special quality.

Bring on Captain Marvel! I can hardly wait for his series to start! I hope you intend to treat him with the respect he deserves and that you assign some great talent to his creative team. Maybe you should make Cap a regular feature along with Green Lantern and Superman. But please drop the SHAZAM logo, and call him what he is: the original Captain Marvel! Surely no one can sue over that.

Coy J. Brown

222 LaMond Rueile

Winchester, KY 40391

*Don't be too sure about what people will sue over in these troubled times of ours. And don't call me surely. Seriously, we hope you enjoyed the SHAZAM! Captain Marvel four parter as much as you hoped. And while there are no plans to make Cap a regular in these pages, an ongoing SHAZAM! series is coming next year. Watch for it.*

*Oh, and your reference to Blackhawk's new look confuses me—I mean, didn't he always have a yellow circle around the hawk's head?*



Dear ACW

Here are my votes for ACW #618—

1) Wild Dog. It should be interesting to see how Wild Dog's influence affects this young boy who sees him as a hero. Will the boy end up in danger? Absolute hell! Will he learn a lesson? Most definitely! But what about the reader? Will he learn?

2) Nightwing. I think this is a great series, but isn't Speedy the star? Why is this a "Nightwing" series? There has been so much Speedy in this story that I wouldn't be at all surprised if Nightwing were killed by Cheshire next week (well, maybe a little surprised...)

3) Blackhawk. This would be a perfect series to be the Green Lantern like anchor of an ADVENTURE COMICS anthology. I really think that an ADVENTURE anthology is a great idea! And Blackhawk is a great series, as well!

4) Green Lantern. Boy, for a second I thought that Green Lantern was going to be unable to face his overwhelming fear. Yeah, he's terrified now. Look at him shake.

5) Superman. Give Supes eight pages, please. This is the last time I will ask nicely!

6) Black Canary. Was that the end? Sorry, I'm still lost.

All around, another good issue. I am anxiously awaiting the return of Deadman.

George Stephens  
P.O. Box 1374  
Greenville, NC 27835

1) Will he indeed? 2) Nightwing and Speedy was the story that writer Mary Wolfman chose to tell. Watch for a Speedy solo series upcoming in these pages. I don't know if Nightwing is really the star of that one, but I do know that the writer is Mark Verheiden, co-creator and writer of The American. 3) ADVENTURE COMICS as an anthology... hm. 4) Yowl! 5) Sorry, no eight pages. What happens now? Yeah we're terrified now. Look at us shake. 6) Oh well, better luck next time.

I don't know about you guys, but reviewing a reader's list always gives me a craving for fawww, you guessed it!

#### THE GREAT ACTION COMICS WEEKLY POLL

Here is the list of your favorite features in ACW #618, as indicated by your votes! Last week's standing is shown in parenthesis.

- 1) Nightwing (2)
- 2) Blackhawk (3)
- 3) Green Lantern (1)
- 4) Wild Dog (4)
- 5) Superman (5)
- 6) Black Canary (6)

As always, thanks for taking the time to vote. Keep it up—it's your right as a comic-buying citizen.

before I wrote; I'll try to improve that now.

Here are the ratings for this issue, and the reasons.

Blackhawk—Even though I had never cared much for this character in the past, it is proving to be my consistent favorite. The writing and the art make a good combination on this series.

Green Lantern—Another character I never cared much about in the past, but the fresh angles that Owsley and Davidi have provided are refreshing. Also, this is one of the few strips that has actually surprised me.

Wild Dog—I enjoyed the mini-series, but I wasn't sure how well it would translate to an eight-page format. Fortunately, Collins and Beatty have risen to the challenge. I guess I should have remembered all those short *Ms. Tree* chapters and had more faith.

Speedy... oops, I mean Nightwing—This has been fairly interesting, but not memorable. I'll withhold final judgment til the conclusion, though.

Superman—The two-page format has been a nice experiment, but I don't think it's working. The story itself is interesting, in particular, since I don't think anything like this has been done before, but the short duration of each episode doesn't do it for me. Also, as much as I liked Curt Swan's Superman in the "old days," it seems awfully stiff to me now. Maybe that's just me, though.

Black Canary—I should preface these remarks by saying that I really like the Canary. I am also disposed to like any kind of experimental art style. But the current BC strip leaves me cold. The story itself isn't too bad, and I like the fact that Canary is being much more cautious than she used to be. But the story seemed to drag, if such a thing is possible in an eight-page strip. And the artwork seems like an afterthought. The layouts seem pretty good and the characters themselves are well drawn, (to this layman, anyway), but the near complete lack of backgrounds gives me the feeling that I'm looking at a Black Canary story that was carved on the wall of an Egyptian temple.

As far as catching up on strips that I missed commenting on, I thought that the Catwoman feature was excellent. I think it has been my favorite strip to appear in ACW so far. The Secret Six was also pretty good, though the whole thing seemed a bit muddled, both art and story-wise.

Deadman was the sort of inspired lunacy that I've come to expect from Mike Baron. It was a little odd for a character like Deadman to appear in this kind of story, but what the heck, so long as it's fun! The Phantom Stranger stories get mixed reviews, though. I enjoyed the first, with Kyle Baker's art, more than the second. For what it's worth, I would rather see the Stranger make single-issue appearances in the style of his original run—more moody, personal tales rather than his fending off the threat of global spiritual annihilation.

In closing, I am enjoying this book and I applaud the initiative it took to try it. I hope it finds the audience it needs to be

commercially viable.

Marc Kevin Hall  
820 NE 7th Street #1  
Hialeah, FL 33009

.....

That's it for another ACTION packed week, join us again in just seven days for six, across the international date line for more of Green Lantern, Superman Nightwing, Black Canary, The Secret Six, and the return of Blackhawk!

Good night and go home!  
—Brian Augustyn

#### ..... VOTE! .....

Just as soon as you've finished this issue of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference: the one you like the most first, the one you liked second, and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so VOTE!

Send your ballots to:  
Action Comics Weekly  
Department 827  
DC Comics Inc.  
656 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10103

## NEXT ISSUE:



Dear folks,

Okay, so fifteen issues slipped by



# ROCKS HARD PLACES

## CHAPTER ONE TRAVELS

MARY WOLFE  
CO-DIRECTOR WRITER  
CHERIE WILKERSON  
CO-DIRECTOR  
TOM MANDRAKE  
ARTIST  
JOHN COSTANZA  
LETTERER  
ADRIENNE ROY  
CLIP ART  
BARBARA KESEL  
EDITOR

IT IS A COLD HARVEST  
MOON WHICH HANGS  
LOW OVER A FROTHING,  
FRIGID IRISH SEA. DUBLIN  
IS SIX HOURS AWAY,  
NORTHERN IRELAND SEVERAL  
HOURS FARTHER BY RAIL.  
A NEW LIFE IS SO CLOSE,  
AND SO FAR AWAY.

ROY HARPER SHAUDERS  
AS THE SALT WIND BITES  
AT HIS FACE.

MAYBE I'M WRONG  
ABOUT THIS, DICK, BUT  
IT'S SOMETHING I  
HAVE TO DO.

IT'S NOT WRONG  
MORE THAN ALMOST  
ANYONE ELSE, I  
UNDERSTAND.

AND  
IN A WAY,  
I ALMOST  
ENVY  
YOU.

I'VE NEVER HAD  
THE COURAGE TO  
TAKE OFF SIX MONTHS  
OF MY LIFE TO SIT  
BACK AND THINK.

I'M REALLY  
GLAD YOU  
FLEW  
BACK.

FATHERHOOD  
REALLY SEEMS  
TO SUIT HIM.  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN SUCH A  
CHANGE COME  
OVER SOMEONE  
SO QUICKLY.

HE'S  
BECOME  
RESPONSIBLE.  
HMMM?

THIS IS  
THE SIXTH  
TIME THAT  
GIRL'S PASSED  
THIS WAY. SORRY  
M'ASS BUT I'M  
TAKEN AND  
HAPPILY SO.

OPEN MY BIG  
MOUTH--IT WASN'T  
ME. HMMM.  
SHE'S FOLLOWING  
THOSE MEN.

BUSMAN'S  
HOLIDAY.

AWWW,  
WHY AM I  
KIDDING MYSELF?  
I'M NATURALLY  
NOSEY!

I'M NOT  
SURE F  
L'AN AND  
I COULD  
HAVE DONE  
THIS ALONE.

LOOK, I'LL  
BE RIGHT  
BACK. IT'S  
BOTTLE-  
FEEDING  
TIME.

GOD, DICK.  
I CAN'T TELL  
YOU HOW I  
FEEL WHEN  
I LOOK AT  
HER.

IT DOESN'T  
TAKE A  
DETECTIVE TO  
FIGURE OUT  
SOMETHING'S  
GOING ON.

BESIDES, WHAT ELSE  
IS THERE TO DO ON A  
FERRY, BY MYSELF, AT  
NIGHT?





DOWN TO THE  
VEHICLE AREA?  
MAYBE THEY'RE ALL  
GOING TO MAKE  
OUT IN SOME  
FERRARI?

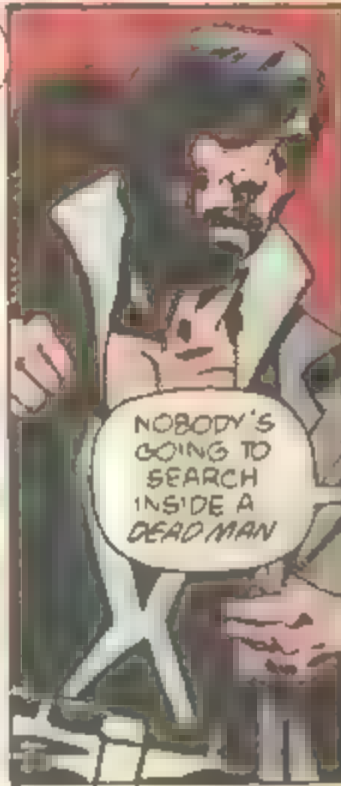
WHEN I START  
THINKING LIKE THAT,  
I KNOW KORY AND  
I HAVE BEEN  
APART TOO LONG



I TELL YOU  
I SPOTTED  
ONE OF 'EM  
WATCHIN'  
US

WE GOTTA  
CHECK OUT  
TH' GOODS

WASTE  
A TIME  
IF Y'ASK  
ME



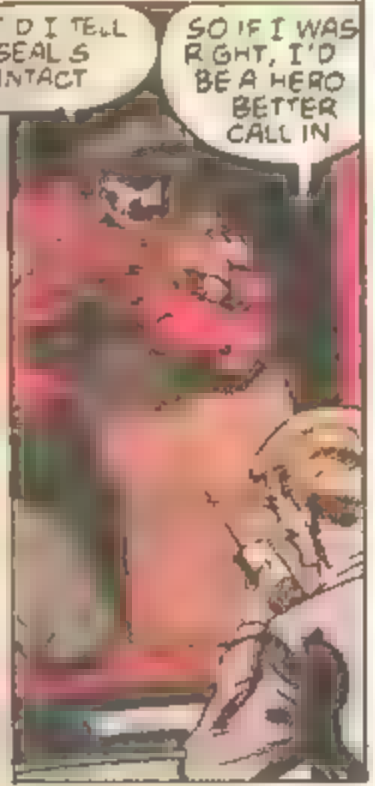
NOBODY'S  
GOING TO  
SEARCH  
INSIDE A  
DEAD MAN



MEBBE,  
MEBBE NOT  
DON'T HURT  
NONE TO  
CHECK

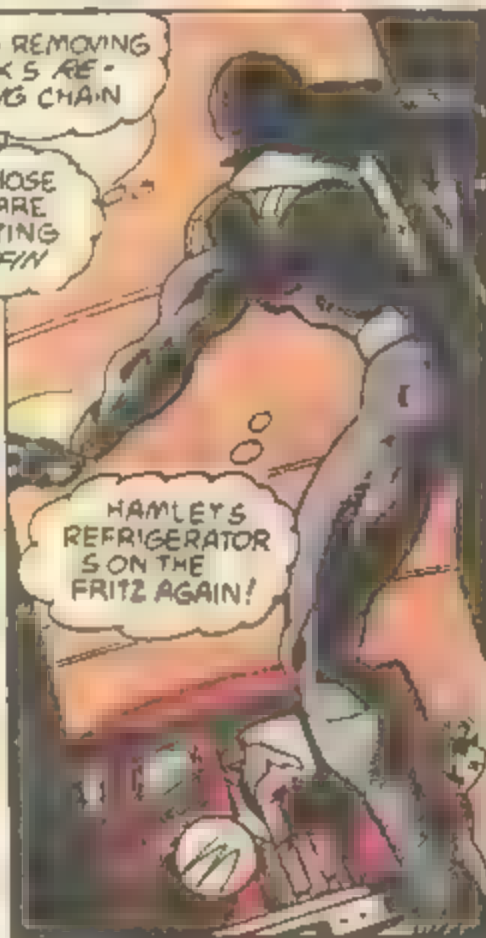
WHAT'D I TELL  
YOU? SEALS  
STILL INTACT

SO IF I WAS  
RIGHT, I'D  
BE A HERO  
BETTER  
CALL IN



THE GIRL'S REMOVING  
THE TRUCK'S RE-  
STRAINING CHAIN

AND THOSE  
MEN ARE  
INSPECTING  
A COFFIN



HAMLEY'S  
REFRIGERATOR  
ON THE  
FRITZ AGAIN!



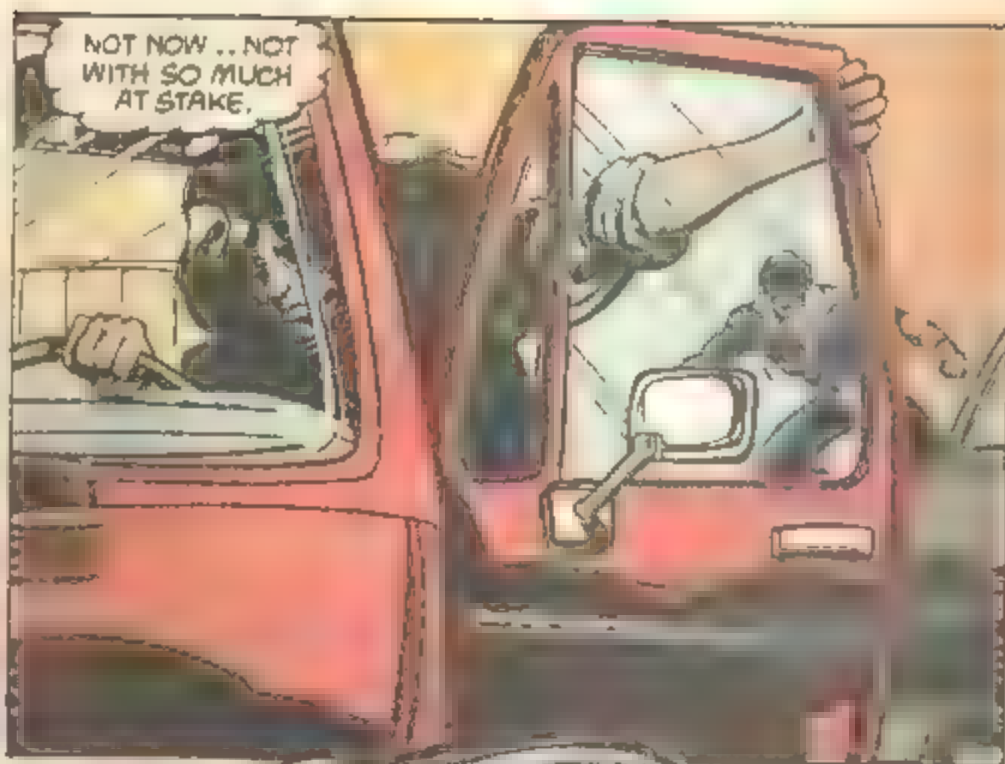
WHAT?



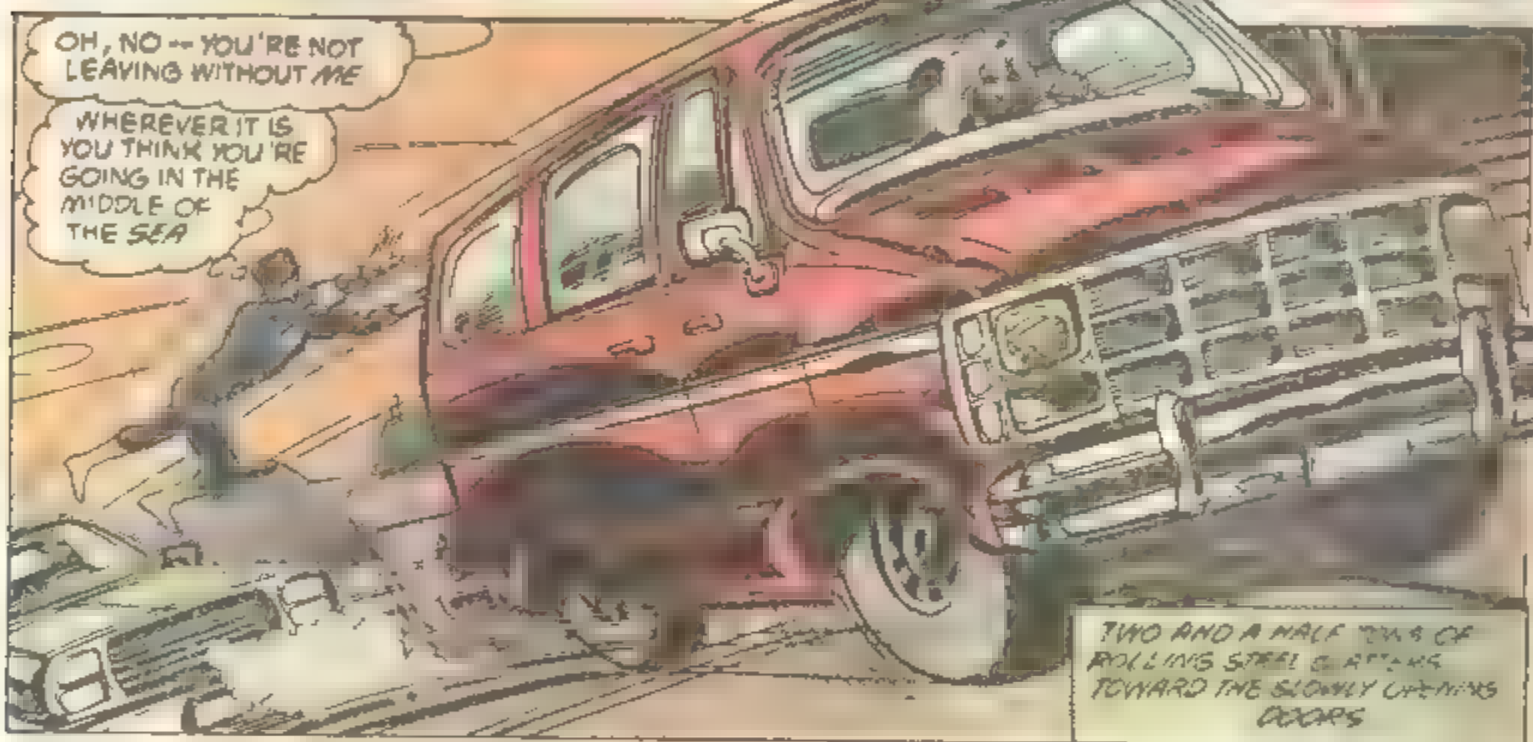


THE DAMN  
BOAT HAD  
BETTER BE  
THERE  
SOMETHING  
SMELLS  
REAL BAD

GOD,  
PLEASE--  
NO COMPLI-  
CATIONS



NOT NOW .. NOT  
WITH SO MUCH  
AT STAKE.



OH, NO -- YOU'RE NOT  
LEAVING WITHOUT ME

WHEREVER IT IS  
YOU THINK YOU'RE  
GOING IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
THE SEA

TWO AND A HALF TONS OF  
ROLLING STEEL CLATTERS  
TOWARD THE SLOWLY OPENING  
DOORS



ECHOING LIKE THUNDER  
THROUGHOUT THE FERRY'S  
CORRIDORS

STILL  
ASLEEP  
SHE'S SO  
BEAUTIFUL  
LIAN I DO  
HOPE I'M  
DOING THE  
RIGHT THING  
FOR US

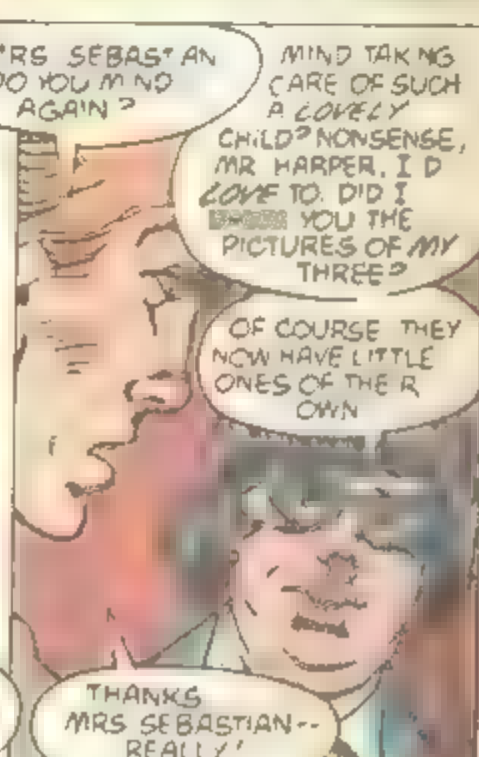
WH WHAT  
IS THAT  
AWFUL  
NOISE?



WHERE'S  
THAT COMING  
FROM?

I HEARD SOME-  
ONE SAY THE  
CAR DOORS  
OPENED

IF THEY LOSE  
MY CAR, I'LL  
SUE



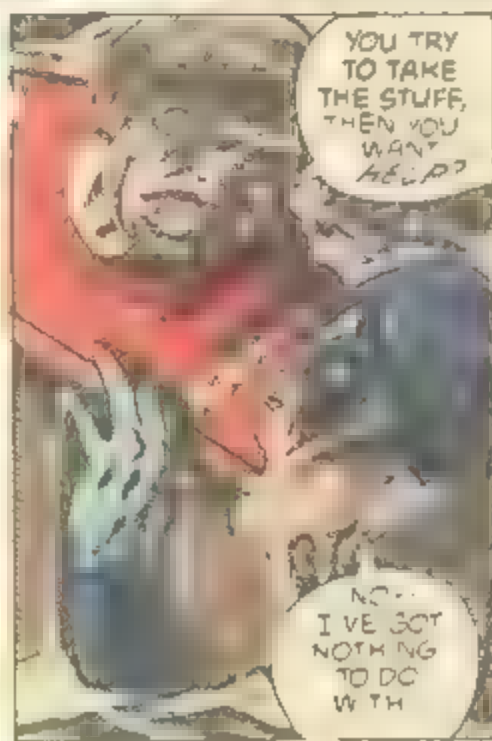
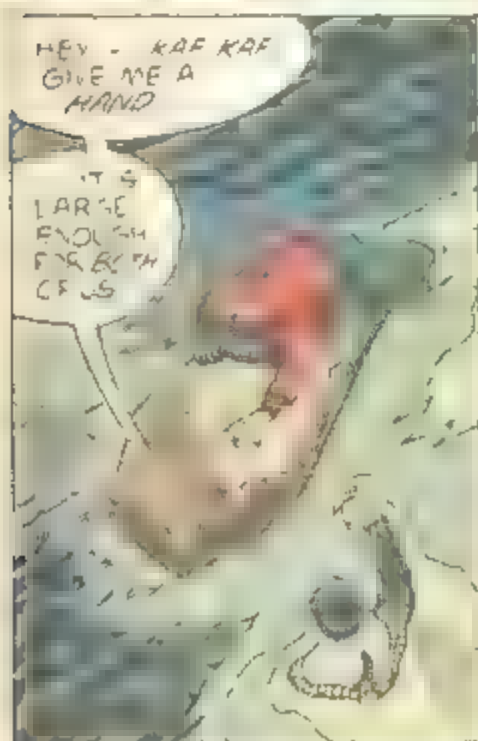
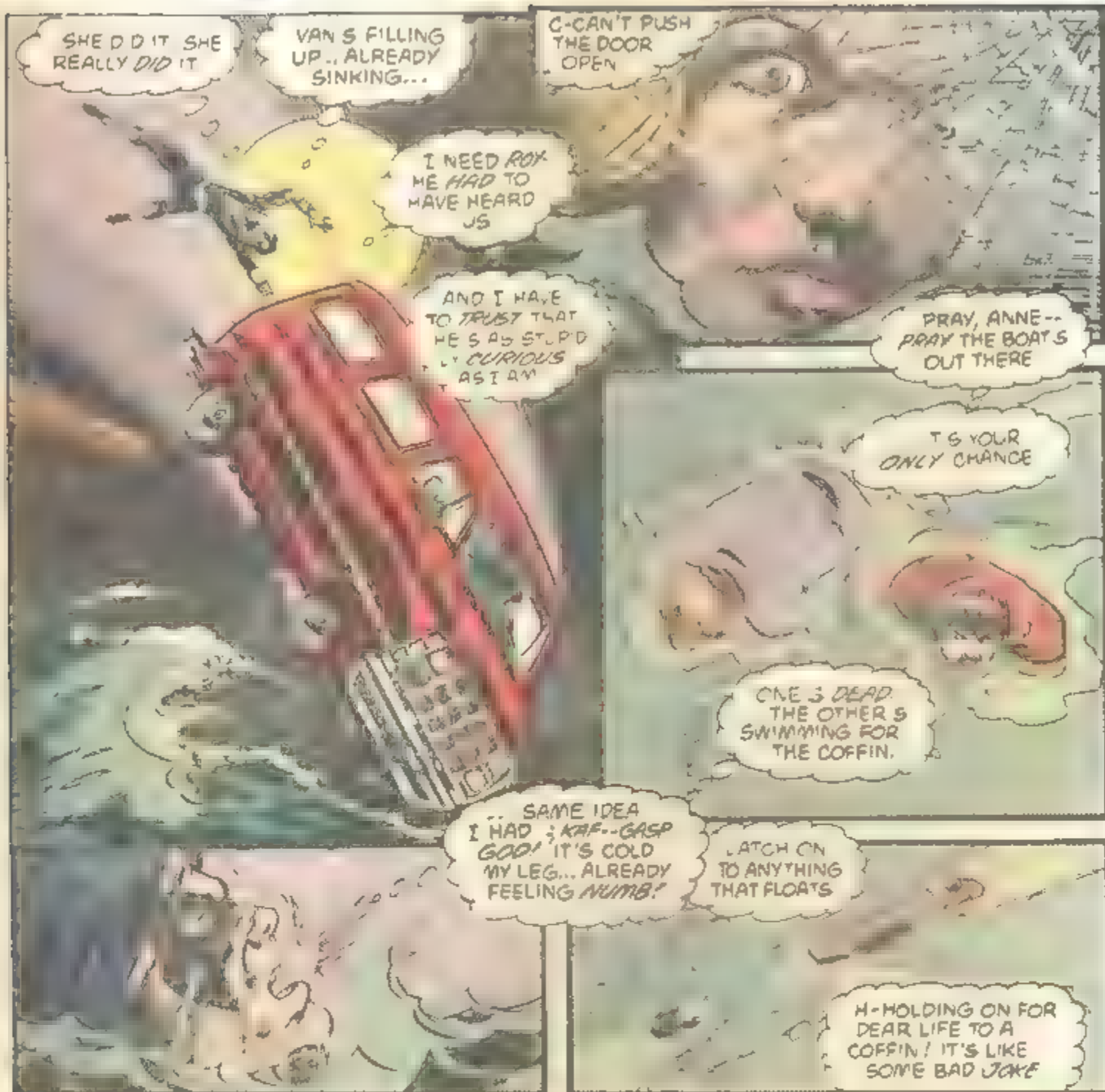
MRS SEBASTIAN  
DO YOU MIND  
AGAIN?

MIND TAKING  
CARE OF SUCH  
A LOVELY  
CHILD? NONSENSE,  
MR HARPER. I'D  
LOVE TO. DID I  
SHOW YOU THE  
PICTURES OF MY  
THREE?

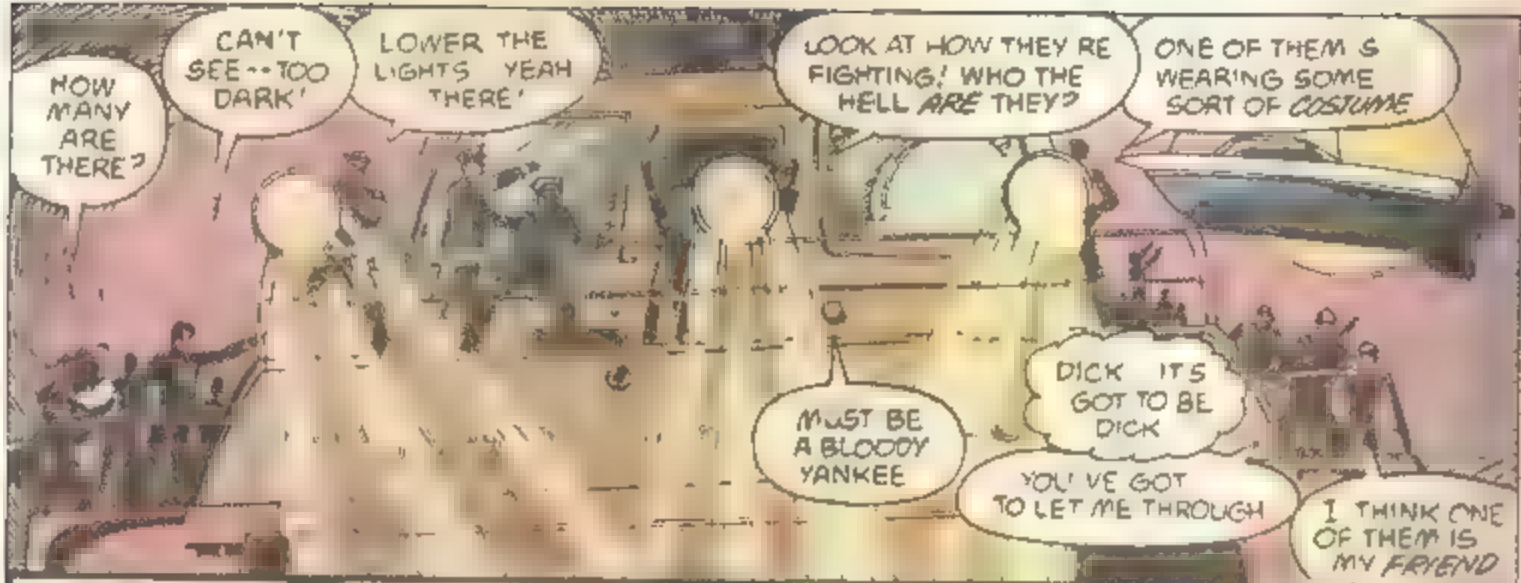
OF COURSE THEY  
NOW HAVE LITTLE  
ONES OF THEIR  
OWN

THANKS  
MRS SEBASTIAN--  
REALLY!









HOW MANY ARE THERE?

CAN'T SEE--TOO DARK!

LOWER THE LIGHTS YEAH THERE!

LOOK AT HOW THEY'RE FIGHTING! WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?

ONE OF THEM IS WEARING SOME SORT OF COSTUME

MUST BE A BLOODY YANKEE

DICK IT'S GOT TO BE DICK

YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME THROUGH

I THINK ONE OF THEM IS MY FRIEND

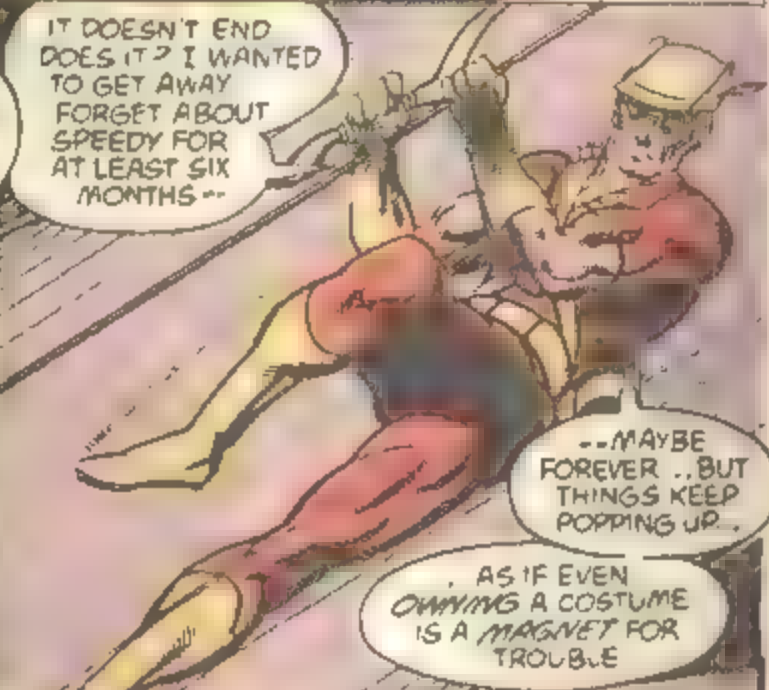


JUST STAY BACK-- WE'RE LOWERING A LAUNCH.

ANOTHER COSTUME? WHAT IS THIS? HALLOWEEN?

THE RESCUE PARTY NEEDS ME

'EY-- WAIT!



IT DOESN'T END DOES IT? I WANTED TO GET AWAY FORGET ABOUT SPEEDY FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS--

--MAYBE FOREVER.. BUT THINGS KEEP POPPING UP..

AS IF EVEN OWNING A COSTUME IS A MAGNET FOR TROUBLE



YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED DOWN

YOU'D'VE GONE FASTER THAT WAY

FREEZING WON'T HURT AS MUCH AS I DO

JUST GIVE ME A SECOND TO EXPLAIN--



I'VE PUT UP WITH STINKING EXPLANATIONS ALL MY LIFE KILL US IN THE STREETS KILL US IN OUR CHURCHES

I'M FED UP WITH-- UNYINGGGHHH

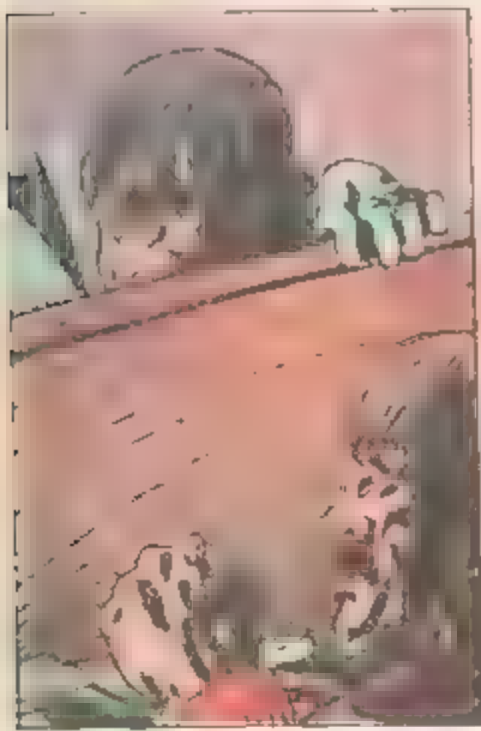
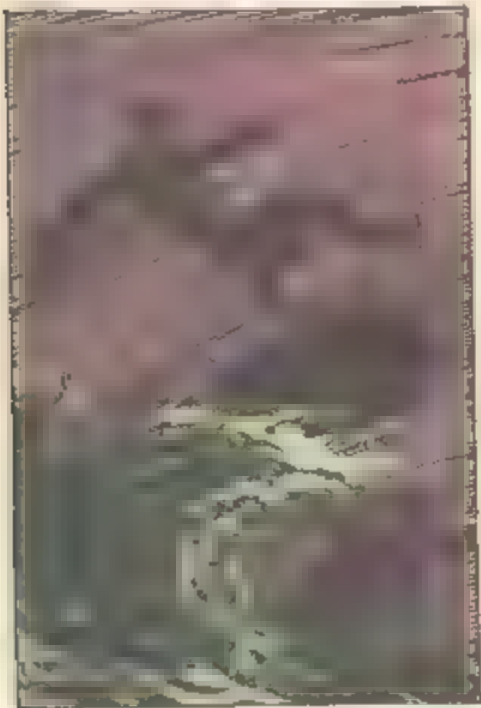
THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO KILL ANYONE HERE IS YOU!

I JUST WANT TO TALK!



I TOLD YOU BEFORE, MAN-- I'M DONE TALKIN'









HOLD T  
STEADY!

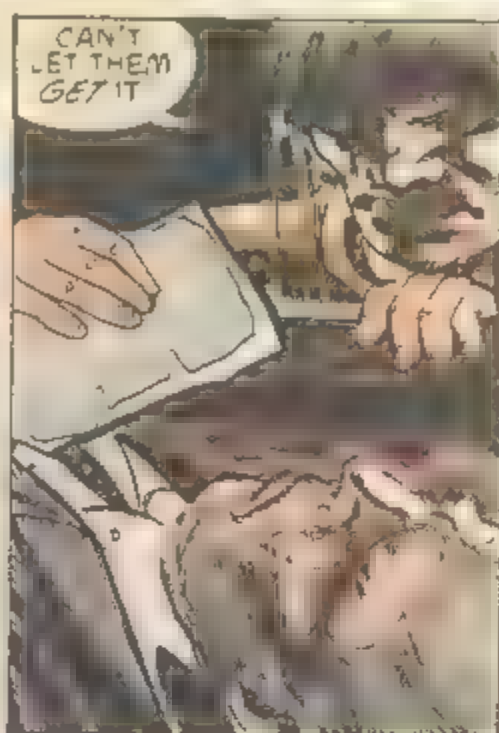
C MON  
THE WATER S  
FREEZING!

THEY CAN T  
LAST OUT THERE  
FOR LONG



THANK  
GOD--  
STILL N  
PLACE

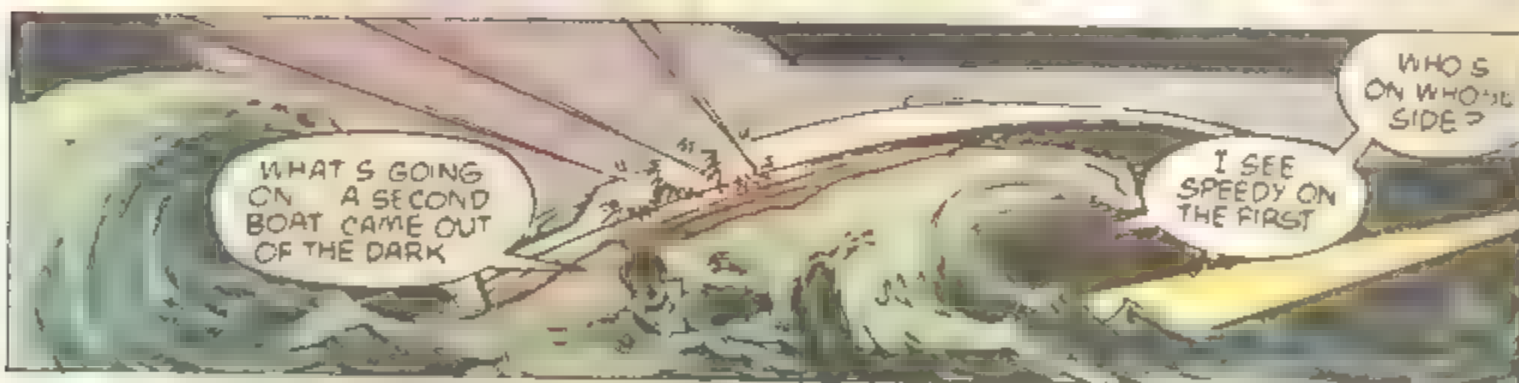
GET THE STUFF  
OFF HIM.



CAN T  
LET THEM  
GET IT



WE'RE CLOSING  
N, SON...JUST  
HOLD ON TO  
YOUR PANTS.



WHAT S GOING  
ON A SECOND  
BOAT CAME OUT  
OF THE DARK

I SEE  
SPEEDY ON  
THE FIRST

WHO S  
ON WHO S  
SIDE?



THEY HAD A  
RESCUE BOAT?  
THANK HEAVEN  
I LL KISS  
T MOTHY S  
FEET HIMSELF  
FOR THIS

STUFF  
EVERYTHING  
I CAN IN  
MY POCKETS

MAYBE WE LL  
GET SOMETHING  
OUT OF ALL--



UNNGHHH

NOOOO!



T S ALL  
SPILL NG

NOOOO!!







THE IRISH SEA IS COLD,  
NUMBER 3,  
CHEST. NIGHTWING'S  
ARMS HAVE  
FLURIOUSLY  
TRYING TO GIVE  
HIM NEEDED  
WORTH

AS WELL  
AS TO KEEP  
HIM ALOFT

EVEN AS THE BOAT  
SPEEDS DIRECTLY  
AT HIM

AS THE BOAT  
MOVES  
FORWARD  
THE BOAT  
MOVES  
FORWARD

HE WAS TOUGHT BY THE  
GREATEST WARRIOR OF ALL  
AND NOW ALL THAT REMAINING  
HAS TO PAY OFF WITH PIN-  
POINT PRECISION.

ONE DEGREE OFF. FORGETTING  
TO ADJUST FOR THE WIND  
FORGETTING GRAVITY'S PULL.

FORGETTING ANYTHING  
AND SPEEDY'S FRIEND  
WILL DIE.

NIGHTWING

# ROCKS HARD PLACES

MARY HOLAND  
CHERIE WILKINSON  
TOM MANDRAKE, artist  
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer  
ADRIENNE ROY, colorist  
BARBARA KESEL, editor

JUST A DISTRACTION

TURNING THE BOAT AT A RIGHT ANGLE A FOOT OFF CENTER

HE DOESN'T  
FORGET

ONE SMALL  
FOOT TWELVE  
INCHES

THE BOAT FLIES  
STRAIGHT ON WITH  
AND SCERFULLY  
POSTONED

ONE LIFE





YOU  
OKAY?

THANKS TO YOU--YEAH. I OWE YOU

NO I OWED YOU THIS  
IS ONLY A *PARTIAL*  
PAYBACK.

WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE TRUCK?



POLICE DIVERS  
SAY THE DRIVERS  
DEAD SAME WITH  
HIS PART

-- YOUR  
FRIENDS IN THE  
SPEEDBOAT  
FISHED HIM IN  
AND TOOK OFF  
LIKE ROACHERS

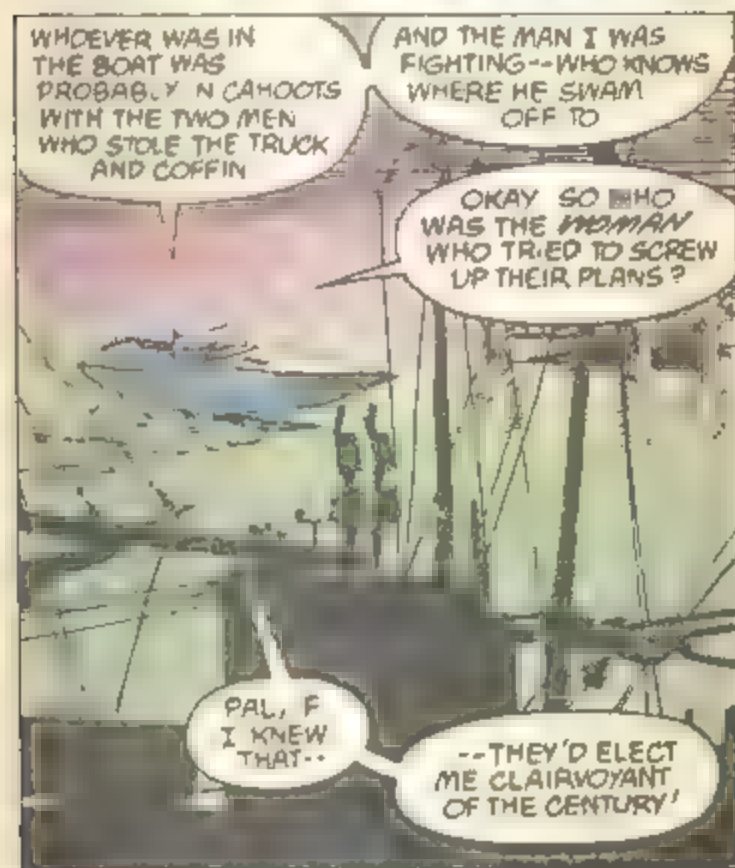
AND THE  
GUY FROM  
THE  
COFFIN--



HIS BODY WAS  
STUFFED WITH  
PLASTIC BAGS  
FILLED WITH

OBVIOUSLY A  
WAY TO SNEAK  
THEM INTO  
RELAND

QUESTION IS--  
WHO'S BEHIND IT  
AND WHAT DO  
THEY WANT?



WHOEVER WAS IN  
THE BOAT WAS  
PROBABLY IN CAHOOTS  
WITH THE TWO MEN  
WHO STOLE THE TRUCK  
AND COFFIN

AND THE MAN I WAS  
FIGHTING--WHO KNOWS  
WHERE HE SWAM  
OFF TO

OKAY SO WHO  
WAS THE WOMAN  
WHO TRIED TO SCREW  
UP THEIR PLANS?

PAL, F  
I KNEW  
THAT--

--THEY'D ELECT  
ME CLAIRVOYANT  
OF THE CENTURY!



'OLD ON MATE--  
LET'S GIVE YE  
A HAND UP

THANKS  
GOT CAUGHT  
OUT THERE  
NASTY--REAL  
NASTY





GONNA GET NASTIER, MATE

YOUR CONNECTION WHO IS IT? WHO SUPPLIES IT?

UNNNNN



DON'T BE A HERO, MATE

YOUR PARTNERS WOULD SELL YOU OUT IN A MINUTE



BLOODY STUBBORN ASS

KILL HIM



HOW'S LIAN HANDLING ALL THIS?

LIKE THE BABY SHE IS

SHE EATS DRINKS AND POOPS SHE'S HAPPY AS A LARK



I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL DICK I WAS FIRED FROM THE CBI BECAUSE OF DRUGS

YOU'RE NOT TAKING THEM AGAIN?

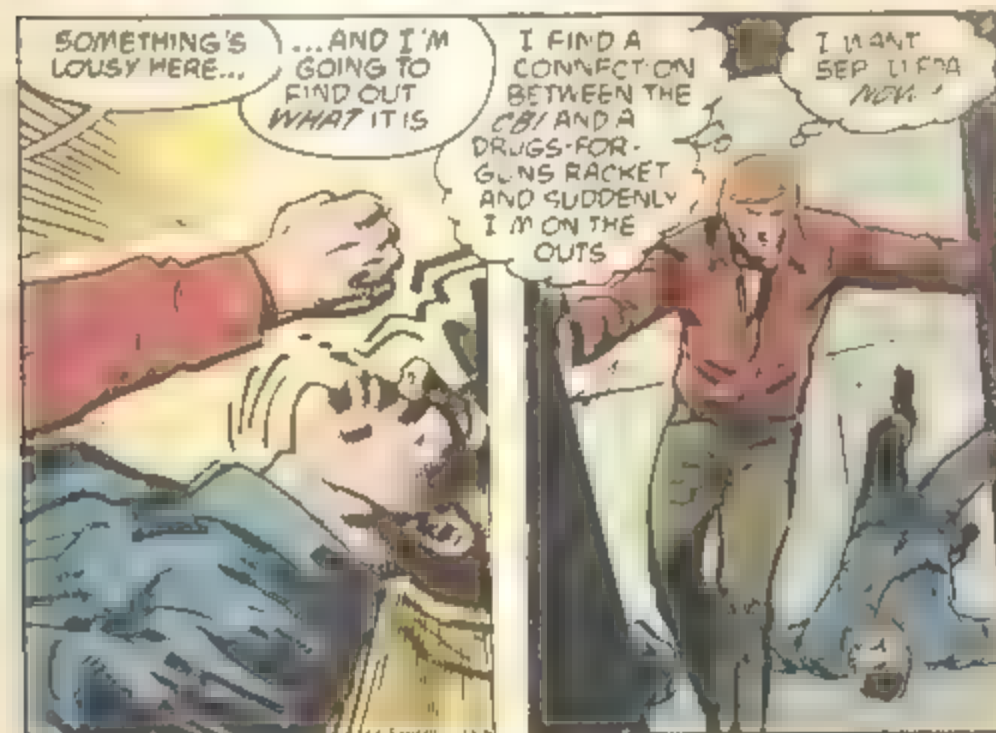
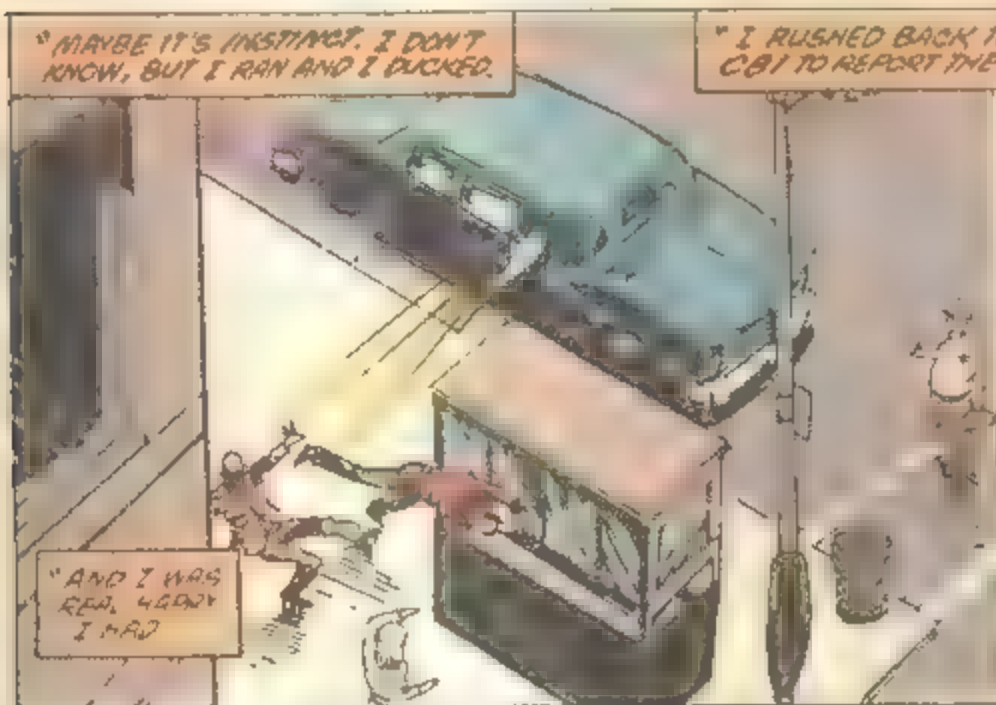
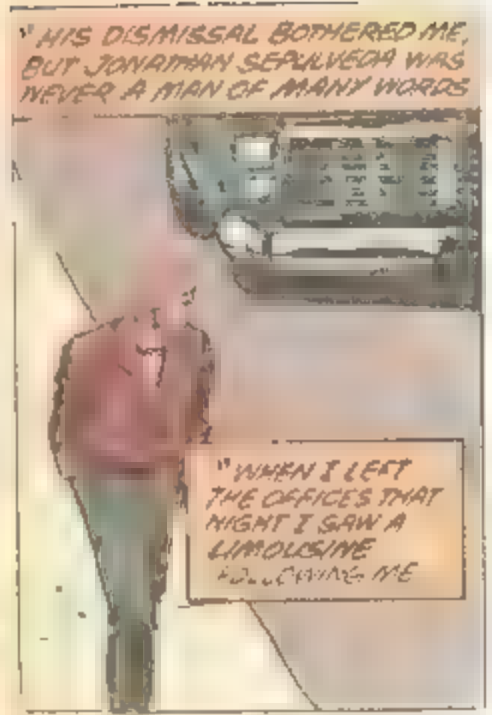
GOD NO..



I WAS CHECKING ON A CONNECTION BETWEEN ARTS AND DRUGS, READING SOME CLASSIFIED CBI FILES FOR INFORMATION

I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I FOUND. I REPORTED MY FINDINGS TO MY SUPERIOR

\*CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS







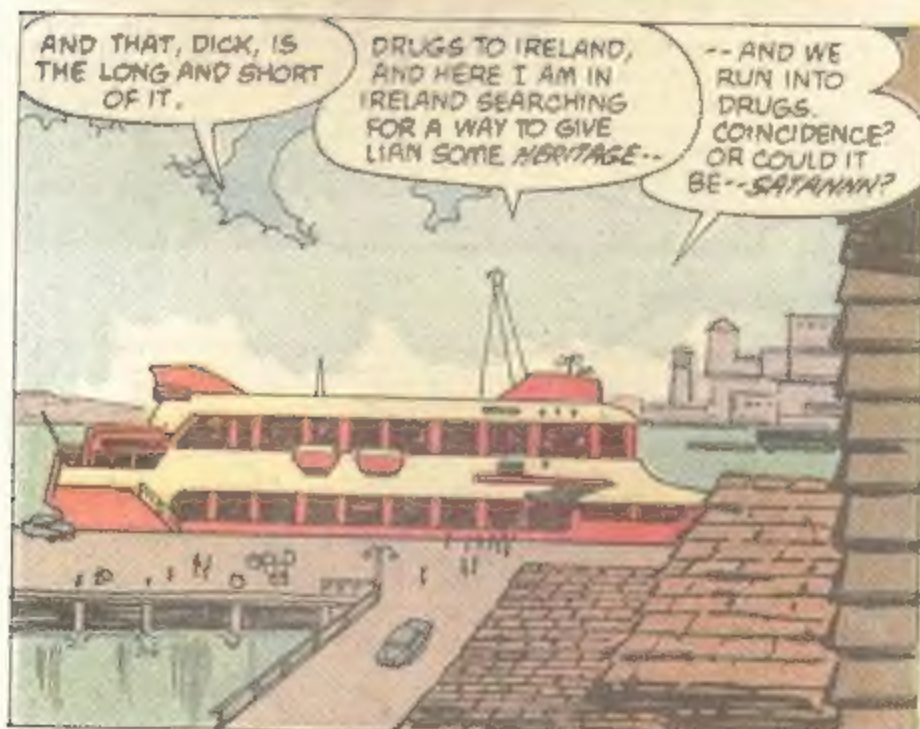
SEPULVEDA, GET OVER HERE, YOU CREEP!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

I'M SORRY, HARPER. I TRULY AM.

BUT I WAS GIVEN ORDERS.

YOU'RE FIRED!



AND THAT, DICK, IS THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.

DRUGS TO IRELAND, AND HERE I AM IN IRELAND SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO GIVE LIAN SOME HERITAGE--

-- AND WE RUN INTO DRUGS. COINCIDENCE? OR COULD IT BE-- SATANNN?



MR. HARPER, I'LL BE JOINING YOU IN A FEW DAYS TO TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE ONE.

JUST HAVE TO VISIT MY NIECE FIRST.

I KNOW THE AREA QUITE WELL, THANK YOU.

THANKS MRS. SEBASTIAN. YOU HAVE THE ADDRESS?



SHE'S BEEN A LIFE-SAVER!

SHE TAKES CARE OF LIAN DAY AND NIGHT.

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT GIVING HER A HERITAGE...?



I KNOW IT'S SILLY--BUT I WAS AN ORPHAN. MY ROOTS ARE HERE AND I JUST WANT HER TO HAVE MORE THAN I HAD.

WE'LL BOTH DISCOVER OURSELVES, IN A WAY.



ANOTHER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. I KNOW MY ROOTS--BACK FOR MANY GENERATIONS.

CIRCUS PERFORMERS. ACROBATS. CLOWNS. THE GRAYSONS GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND.



YEAH, I KNOW, I MEAN I JUST FOUND OUT THE HARPERS CAME FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.

SO THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

"ROOTS--THE SUPER-HERO GENERATION."

DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D SEE 'KUNTA KINTE' WITH RED HAIR?

BUT EVEN MORE THAN JUST FINDING OUT MY PAST, AND THEREFORE LIAN'S...

...I JUST NEED TIME OFF.

SIX MONTHS TO THINK, REGROUP, RE-CONSIDER MY LIFE.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT AND ACTED WITHOUT A LOT OF FORE-THOUGHT.

NOW THAT I HAVE CUSTODY OF LIAN, IT'S TIME I CONSIDER WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH MYSELF.

I'M NOT A KID ANY LONGER.

AND YOU WON'T BE ALIVE TO GET OLD IF YOU DON'T LISTEN UP.

HUNH?

GET INSIDE THIS ALLEY-- QUICK.

WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED.



